

# TATTOO LIFE

n° 77

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## JASON BUTCHER

THE "DEATH ROMANTIC" TOUCH

**PAINTINGS**  
'KOKORO' BY  
HORIYOSHI III  
AT THE  
SOMERSET  
HOUSE,  
LONDON



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TRADITIONAL  
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**HAMBURG**  
**DETROIT**  
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**FRANKFURT**



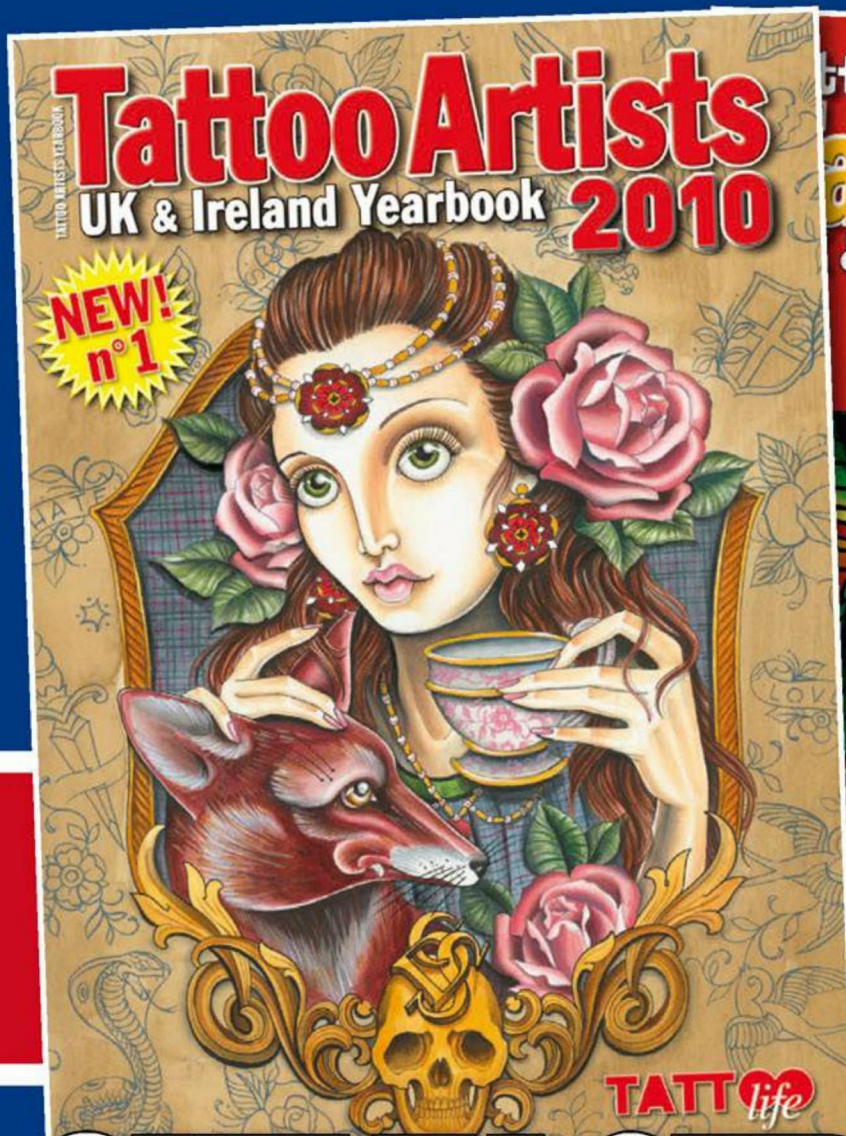


# Tattoo Artists

## UK & Ireland Yearbook

# 2012

**TATTOO**life  
PRODUCTION



# OUT IN SEPTEMBER



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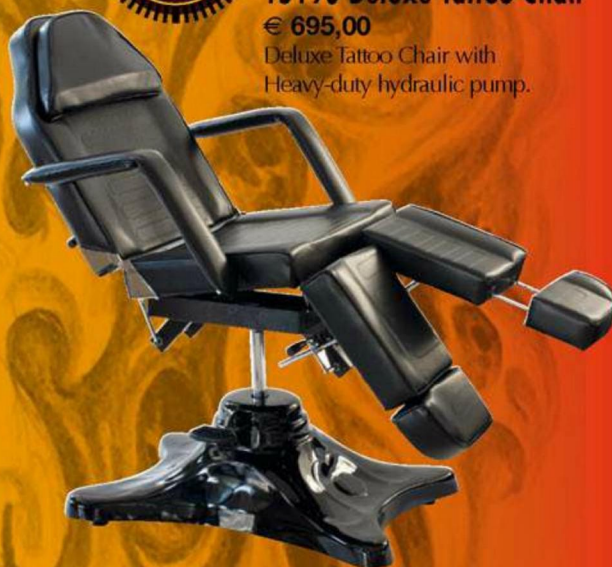
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# ARE YOU A PROFESSIONAL TATTOO ARTIST? ARE YOU A TATTOO ENTHUSIAST?



**SEARCH  
THE ARCHIVE**

**NEW TATTOOS  
UPDATED REGULARLY**

**SAVE YOUR  
FAVOURITES**

## **TATTOO LIFE GALLERY**

### **THE BEST TATTOOS JUST A CLICK AWAY! THE PHOTO ARCHIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TATTOO MAGAZINE TATTOO LIFE NOW ONLINE**

SUBSCRIBE AND CHECK OUT THE ARCHIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL TATTOO LIFE MAGAZINE. YOU WILL FIND THOUSANDS OF SELECTED PHOTOS ONLINE WITH THE BEST WORKS ON SKIN. OUR ARCHIVE IS EASY TO SEARCH USING KEY WORDS THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO FIND WHAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR QUICKLY. SURF THROUGH THE SUBJECTS AND THE STYLES OF MODERN TATTOO, STAY UPDATED ON THE NEWEST PRODUCTION WITH JUST ONE CLICK OR LOOK FOR SOMETHING INSPIRING. A USEFUL TOOL FOR EVERY TATTOO ENTHUSIAST BUT DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR TATTOO STUDIOS THAT WILL HAVE THOUSANDS OF IDEAS TO SHOW THEIR CUSTOMERS. TRY IT OUT IMMEDIATELY!



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PAUL ANTHONY  
DOBLEMAN



# editorial

## Inside the show case of MoMa!



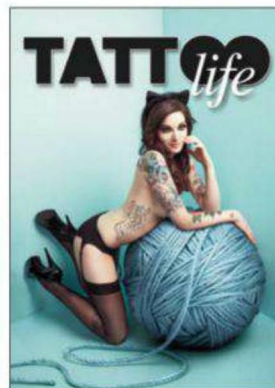
**T**he entry of our books on the art of tattooing in the library of the prestigious Museum of Modern Art of New York is something that can only make us proud. It represents the recognition of our constant hard work that has brought us to promote our world and its culture, ultimately making us one and the same. Our volumes in the series *The Great Books on the Art of Tattooing* were able to cross the gap between the vast commercialism inherent to tattoo art - conventions, magazines, specialized websites, dedicated events, tattoo studios, personal contacts - and to be greeted by institutional culture. This fills us with pride, above all because the works of our tattoo artists have finally conquered the place they deserve in the most important show case art in the world.

Publishing in tattoo art seems to be saturated by books, abstracts and various booklets. This is truly rewarding because the support of MoMa symbolizes the recognition of the seriousness with which we work, and let me tell you, the quality of our editorial products. This not only means that we can give back to tattoo art at least part of what it has given to us, but that we can at the same time indirectly thank the thousands of artists who in the past as in the present, contributed and continue to contribute to the scope and fertility of tattoo.

More gratifying is that if there is a cultural institution in the world that never lets itself be overtaken by time, its MoMA, a museum so to speak, not limited to maintaining - but to preceding great cultural movements. Such an event establishes unequivocally that tattoo cannot be treated and considered as a "minor" art, but sits at the table with those considered "great" with the same dignity and respect. In the same manner, the masters of tattoo aren't merely artists better than the others, but grand interpreters of the contemporary spirit, artists that pen their vision of the world and the expression of their inner selves on skin rather than other mediums.

And this is the most intimate essence of art, whether it is modern or bygone, and we are proud to be part of it.

by Miki Vialetto



Photography: Christian Saint  
facebook.com/thechristiansaint  
Model: El Wood  
Hair & Makeup: Jessah Amarante

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# TATTOO life

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[www.tattoolife.com/digitalversion](http://www.tattoolife.com/digitalversion)



## TATTOOSPY

### The POLYNESIAN TATTOO Handbook

*The Polynesian Tattoo Handbook* is a book edited with great attention to detail by the staff members of Tattoo Tribes. The handbook helps to quickly identify the correct symbols for 200 character traits, emotions, the natural elements, and many more based off different styles of tattoos originating from Polynesia. The examples given and elaborated on in detail show how to incorporate the symbols into a unified design. Several basic designs have also been included to be used as a basis from which to start. Each step is explained

simply and clearly, making this book suitable both to the well accustomed tattoo artist and the amateur. Ten years of passion and study and many dusty volumes are combined herein.

**THE POLYNESIAN TATTOO HANDBOOK**  
BY ROBERTO GEMORI  
154 BLACK&WHITE PAGES, SOFT COVER  
PUBLISHER: TATTOO TRIBES  
WWW.TATTOOTRIBES.COM

### DE NADA The Art of Jerald Tidwell

Presto Art has put together the largest collection of the works of Jerald Tidwell ever seen before. Posters of events and concerts, skateboards, paintings, sketches and graffiti created by this great American visual artist known from LA to New York City are contained inside along with 180 pages of selected works signed by him. The book may be purchased online and is also available as

a special limited edition for collectors; printed in only 100 copies, it contains two prints and a hand painted canvas bag. The introduction is personally signed by the master Frank Kozik.

**DE NADA - THE ART OF JERAL TIDWELL**  
ART BY JERAL TIDWELL  
180 FULL COLOUR PAGES, HARD COVER  
PUBLISHER: PRESTO ART  
WWW.HUMANTREE.COM



### BREAD & BUTTER 2012

The international exhibition of urban fashion will be held at the airport of Tempelhof in Berlin until the end of June.



for traders, buyers and anyone else otherwise interested in the fashion industry.

More than 600 brands will be present at the event that has already become a very important meeting point

4TH-6TH JULY 2012  
TEMPELHOF AIRPORT  
PLATZ DER LUFTBRÜCKE 5  
BERLIN, GERMANY

### BLOOD PUDDIN' ARTWORK BY JOE CAPOBIANCO



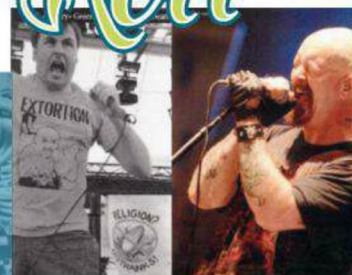
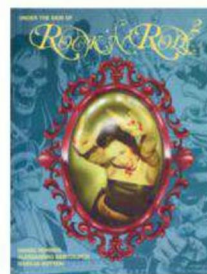
This is the fourth book by Joe Capobianco on his own art in which he states to have defined a mature and above all unique and novel style. "My tastes have changed" says Joe in the introduction, and leafing through the pages, there is no room for doubt: his women have become darker and more

disturbing and are drawn in the disquieting imagery of the horror film genre. Sketches, Flash clips, and tattoos already designed by Joe Capobianco portray a world of beautiful and wild pin-ups with mischievous and ruthless gazes that will inspire other artists and lovers of the genre.

**BLOOD PUDDIN'**  
ARTWORK BY JOE CAPOBIANCO  
ART AND TEXT BY JOE CAPOBIANCO  
120 FULL COLOUR PAGES, SOFT COVER  
PUBLISHED BY JOE CAPOBIANCO  
ARTE PRENSA  
JOECAPOBIANCO.BIGCARTEL.COM

### UNDER THE SKIN OF Rock n' Roll

Tattoos narrate part of the history of music: over 200 pages of exclusive interviews and numerous photos are included in the new edition *Under the Skin of Rock N' Roll*. The authors of the book Nando Rohner, Alessandro Bertolotti and Markus Rutten, through memories, anecdotes, and confessions, once again identify the connection between heavy metal and the world of tattoos via images and words through of a series of musicians such as Rob Halford from Judas

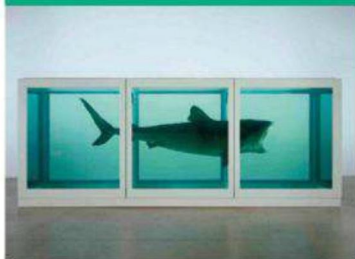


Priest, Kerry King from Slayer, Mark "Barney" Greenway from Napalm Death, and many others. It is available only in German.

**UNDER THE SKIN OF ROCK N' ROLL**  
BY NANDO ROHNER, ALESSANDRO BERTOLOTTI, MARKUS RUTTEN  
252 BLACK/WHITE AND COLOUR PAGES, SOFT COVER  
PUBLISHER: BOOK ON DEMAND  
WWW.UNDERTHESKINOFROCKNROLL.COM



## DAMIEN HIRST EXHIBITION



Damien Hirst drew attention to himself for the first time in 1998 when he conceived of and edited the Freeze, an exhibition in an abandoned warehouse where he displayed his works to his friends and college classmates. After nearly a quarter of a century after that crucial show, Hirst became one of the most influential artists of his generation, his

fame foreshadowed by the first substantial survey of his works at a British Museum, an extant exhibition which brings together the key works of over twenty years, and includes the most famous of his paintings made from flies and butterflies, the fixtures and sculptures of his series Natural History, and famously the one in which he placed a shark in formaldehyde, The Physical Impossibility of Death in the Mind of Someone Living from 1991

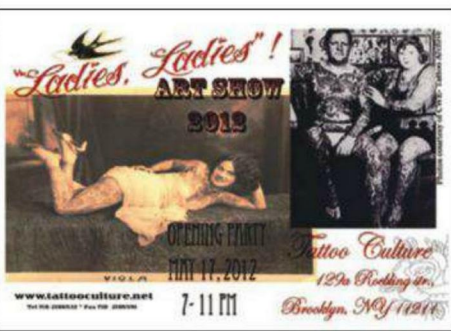
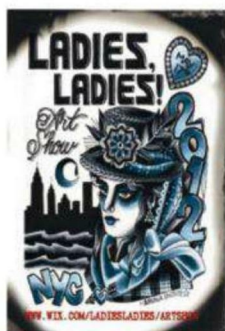
UNTIL 9TH SEPTEMBER 2012  
TATE MODERN  
[WWW.TATE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.TATE.ORG.UK)

## Ladies Ladies! ARTSHOW 2012

For the second consecutive year 100 tattoo artists will get together for a truly unique event in New York City, an all-female group of tattoo artists from The Big Apple and all around the world. A celebration of creativity and talent presents the work of established artists and promising newcomers in tribute of their art, and coincides

with the eve of the New York City Tattoo Convention. All the paintings, prints, and originals are for sale. Do not miss!

TATTOO CULTURE  
129 ROEBLING STR, BROOKLYN, NY  
[WWW.WIX.COM/LADIESLADIES/ARTSHOW](http://WWW.WIX.COM/LADIESLADIES/ARTSHOW)



## WORLD WIDE TATTOO CONFERENCE

26TH-27TH SEPTEMBER  
[WWW.WORLDWIDETATTOOCONFERENCE.COM](http://WWW.WORLDWIDETATTOOCONFERENCE.COM)

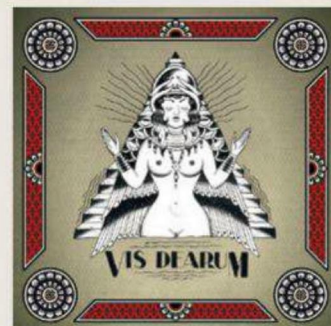
Two days to learn how to perfect the art of tattooing with the help of a fabulous group of tattoo visionaries: Bob Tyrrel, Boris, Alex De Pase, Dimitriy Samohin, Joe Capobianco, Stephan Chaudesaigues. Six

seminars and discussion panels will take place and certifications of participation will be given. This major global conference takes place at the Tobacco Dock in London September 26th and 27th.

## TATTOOSPY

### VIS DEARUM

Vis Dearum (the strength of the goddess) is a traveling exhibition curated by Viola Von Hell and Ilaria Beltramme dedicated to the exploration of the universe of tattooed women. This adventurous exhibition, which opened May at the Mondo Bizarro Gallery in Rome, takes us through seven different nations on the trail of the most talented and representative tattoo artists in the world challenged to express themselves creatively on the theme of sacred archetypes investigating the



mystique of female deities. 18 artists of international standing interpret the strength of their patron goddess.

[VIOLAVONHELL.WORDPRESS.COM](http://VIOLAVONHELL.WORDPRESS.COM)



## SUMMER JAMBOREE

The long awaited summer edition of Jamboree 2012 will be staged this year in Senegal from the 4th to the 12th of August. The international festival of music and culture related to America's 40s and 50s is certainly now one of the largest and most important festivals of its kind in Europe



and the world. Every year begins anew with large concerts, dances, shows and wild parties.

[WWW.SUMMERJAMBOREE.COM](http://WWW.SUMMERJAMBOREE.COM)



## SHOPPING

THERE ARE NO WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE PRODUCTS AND BRANDS WE ADVISE YOU TO BUY THIS TIME AROUND. MUTEWATCH SUGGESTS INVISIBLE TIME, PRINCESA WEARABLE LIMITED EDITION ARTWORK, WICKED ONE THE CRUELTY OF THE ROAD, URBAN OUTFITTERS THE AESTHETIC METROPOLITAN LOOK, RE AND MINIMARKET THE PLEASURE OF RECYCLING, AND BLACKVIEW A SENSE OF IRONY.

### MUTEWATCH TIME IS NOW!

Quiet, discreet, and young. This is how Mutewatch describes time. A slender triangle attired in rubber. Silent and disconnected from reality, it lights up and comes to life at the touch of a fingertip. The precise hour exists for an instant and disappears just as quickly. Touch sensitive functions behave similarly to the touch screen on a iPhone. A product designed for those

who hate watches, but not trendy items, will be won over by the originality of the design and the discretion at which it keeps time, a time without horizons, eliminated from the past and future, a time that appears only in the present with a light touch of the fingertip. Pure magic.

[HTTP://MUTEWATCH.COM](http://mutewatch.com)



### URBAN OUTFITTERS IRONICAL WARRIORS

Watermelon, lemon, or mint. This is the new color palette of the collection that Urban Outfitters is offering to girls planning to spend time under the August sun. Don't worry. The basic grey and black pieces of the brand name collection remain in the catalog. In addition, certain models inspired by the softness and lightness of pin-ups take the shape of summer dresses and full dotted swimsuits. There is also space for irony: you can dive headfirst into cosmo or warm your bones in front of a summer bonfire in the spirit of Halloween. Unabashedly urban.

[WWW.URBANOUTFITTERS.CO.UK](http://www.urbanoutfitters.co.uk)



### PRINCESA STAY UP: IT'S A FUNNY DAY

This is an exciting collection. The principle works of Princessa are ironic pieces of art created by Miss Van and Laundry A, co-founders of this clothing brand based in Barcelona. All the illustrations are personal works by Miss Van reproduced in limited edition. They may be purchased online, in addition

to t-shirts for men and women, jewelry, and original prints only from the official website, a resource for fans of Miss Van that has the power to unveil a microcosm inspired by their goddess.

[HTTP://STORE.PRINCESAMARKET.COM](http://store.princesamarket.com)

### Blackview Smile! Someone's dead!

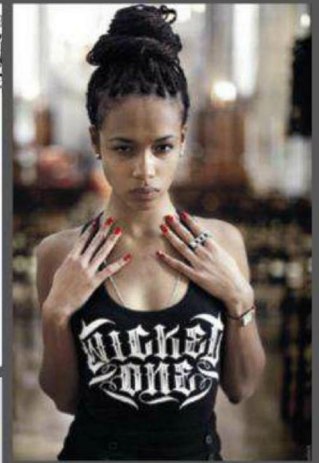


This all German online store is an entertaining example of dark humor. The heart of the catalog are the small items with which to furnish your home, ranging from the classic salt shaker in salt and pepper combinations, all the way to the coffee sets more or less American. Small objects for

kind gestures of gift giving inspired by vampires, death, and other dark genres are at times obviously kitsch, but precisely for this reason they are rendered intimately sly.

[HTTP://BLACKVIEW.DE](http://blackview.de)





## Wicked one

Founded in 2007, Wicked One is a French brand that draws inspiration from the ghetto and the world of graffiti, of tattoo, hip-hop, and from combat sports. The printed works are influenced by the

Chicano style of East Los Angeles. The creations of Wicked One are snappy, seeking to affirm the authenticity and candor of current day underground. It's collection created by young enthusiasts of fashion and street culture directed to authentic and determined souls.

[WWW.WICKEDONE.FR](http://WWW.WICKEDONE.FR)



## RE KING OF RE-CYCLING



Customized objects rediscovered and recycled. Tempered and glazed whiskey glasses blown in different colors decorated with the coats of arms of the American mariner tradition. One can't help but to be fascinated if not for a lack of anything better than these immemorial and ecologically

sound products that epitomize the soul of tattoo, its timelessness, and its class. Visit the entire collection online.

[HTTP://RE-FOUNDOBJECTS.COM](http://RE-FOUNDOBJECTS.COM)



## SECOND HAND MINIMARKET MINI IS BIGGER!

These rediscovered and refurbished objects and clothing sold in convenience stores represent an all Italian experience of reissued new looks, ambiances, prints, and designs. "Minimarket stores are neither trendy nor avanguard but contemporaneous. We ride the wave of the industry in this new fashion crossover borrowed from the best. We take inspiration from the street and from ordinary people because



we're ordinary people and the street is where we're born." Their catalog this year is replete with crosses and sugar-skulls from the military fantasy genre, and can be found on Facebook. Connect yourselves.

**FACEBOOK: MINIMARKET DEL RICICLO**





MANTAS (M-PIRE OF EVIL)

# M:PIRE of EVIL

IN LEAGUE WITH...INK!



## MUSIC

TEXT BY SIMONE SACCO - PHOTOS BY ENZO MAZZEO  
[WWW.MPIREOFEVIL.COM](http://WWW.MPIREOFEVIL.COM) - [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MPiREOFEVIL](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MPiREOFEVIL)

THE MASTER BEHIND ESOTERIC MASTERPIECES LIKE 'BLACK METAL' AND 'AT WAR WITH SATAN' AND HISTORICAL GUITARIST FROM VENOM WHO CURRENTLY PLAYS WITH THE ABSOLUTELY CLASSIC M-PIRE OF EVIL - JEFF DUNN - ALSO KNOWN AS MANTAS, DISCUSSES WITH US HIS GREATEST PASSIONS, INCLUDING MUSIC, MARTIAL ARTS, AND ABOVE ALL, TATTOO. WE CEDE THE CONVERSATION TO THIS INCARNATE LEGEND.



WorldMags.net





**Line-up**  
**Demolition Man** – vocals, bass  
**Mantas** – guitar  
**Antton** – drums  
**Album**  
**Hell To The Holy**  
**Label**  
**Scarlet Records**  
**Photos**  
**Enzo Mazzeo**

**S**O MANTAS, YOU WANT TO REVEAL TO ME WHAT PERIOD OF YOUR LIFE YOU STARTED DEALING WITH TATTOO ART? The story began very early. I

remember when, while I was registering our debut-album 'Welcome to Hell' with Venom, the studios of Neat Records (the first label of the band originally from Newcastle upon Tyne, Ed.) bordered with a very good tattoo parlor. My friend and I spied through the window fascinated by all those old school images: traditional subjects, skulls, hearts, daggers, etc. Ever since, I could never free myself.

**'WELCOME TO HELL' DATES BACK TO 1981. YOUR FIRST TATTOO, HOWEVER, DATES MUCH LATER.**

Yeah, I got it in 1995: in the days of Newcastle I had a piece on my right forearm depicting the logo of my martial arts gym. Originally there were two tiger heads emanating flames from their stripes. I wore it on my skin for fifteen long years, but now it's covered by a Japanese dragon.

**ARE YOU TATTOOED ONLY ALONG YOUR ARMS?**

At the moment yes, but sooner or later I would like to decorate my back with a big piece of which I haven't chosen the final subject yet. It could also relate to martial

arts seeing as how they remain a great love of my life.

**COMING BACK TO YOUR RIGHT ARM, I NOTICED A SPECIAL KIND OF SAMURAI WITH THE FEATURES OF A FRIGHTENING ZOMBIE HOWEVER.**

Yeah, Paul Stott from the studio Trailer Trash Morphet in Northeast England did that one for me. That samurai was originally placed on top one of the tigers. Above it, there is the dragon that I was telling you about before; on the back of my forearm there is also a geisha near a cherry with two hanging scrolls on which are written the words 'perseverance', 'commitment', 'determination', and 'no fear', words I hold to closely.

**IS IT NEEDLES TO ASK YOU AT THIS POINT IF YOU GO CRAZY FOR JAPANESE?**

Well, that remains my preferred style, but there is so much good stuff around that it's difficult to fixate on one in particular and maintain a certain consistency. That is why tattoos should never reflect just one style, but the entire personality of an individual.

**APART FROM PAUL STOTT, CAN YOU CITE ME ANOTHER TATTOO ARTIST THAT YOU WOULD TRUST WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED?**

I like the Japanese styled artworks of Paul Garver, and you certainly can't deny that Kat Von D doesn't know how to handle portraiture! But I still remain faithful to Paul: that guy has a 'vision'

you can't overlook once his works are completed.

**DO YOU HAVE TATTOOS RELATED TO YOUR MUSICAL CAREER? VENOM, MANTAS, DRYLL, M-PIRE OF EVIL?**

Not at the moment, but I've already made arrangements because portraits of my favorite guitar heroes end up on my left arm, namely Gary Moore, Frank Marino, KK Downing and Zakk Wylde. Maybe then I'll include in the tattoo the 'double E' taken from the M-Pire of Evil logo.

**I BET A RECORD LIKE THE RECENT 'TO THE HOLY HELL' WILL BE WORSHIPED IN TATTOO PARLORS THE WORLD OVER.**

Well, I would almost say 'Hell to the Holy' and 'Ink to the Virgin Skin!' (snickers, Ed.) In the song 'Metal Messiah', among others, there is also a reference to tattoo in the verse 'Deep in your skin there are markings of lore / Our world is total and Metal our law'.

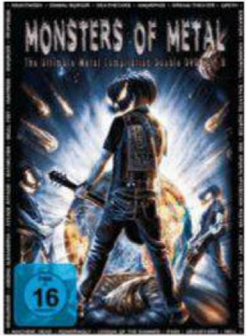
**I CLOSE ON THE NOTE THAT M-PIRE OF EVIL IS A BAND WITH A LOT OF TATTOOS. THERE'S YOU, THE DRUMMER ANTTON, AND ... ?**

Our singer / bassist Demolition Man! He has, in terms of tattoos, the skull of Atomkraft (the symbol linked to the hazardous effects of nuclear radiation, Ed.), the word 'Demolition', and a Native-American warrior whose heart is wrapped in barbed wire. This last one, for the record, was done by Rodrigo Souto from Black Garden Tattoo, London, and it's amazing!



## AAVV.

**'MONSTERS OF METAL'**  
(NUCLEAR BLAST)

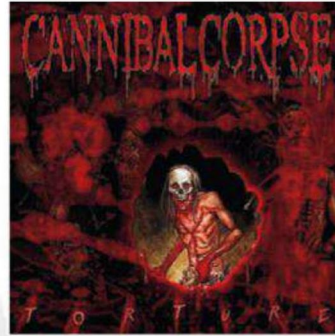


Does a vast collection of video-clips still make sense after the introduction of You Tube almost a decade ago? Or with major music networks like MTV airing ever more youth based reality TV shows to their bitter end? Do sound tracks, in short, still interest anyone? Well, It depends on the product in question... In the case of the gargantuan 'Monsters Of Metal' (2 DVDs, 90

videos, more than 6 hours long) the facts add up. All the best of mainstream metal in recent years (and for "metal" we also mean non-canonical bands like Nightwish, The Pain, Opeth or the revived Monster Magnet ...) are contained herein. Despite the quality of the first disk (Nevermore, Huntress, Sabaton, etc.), we are most attracted by the 46 groups contained in the second. There is an endless supply of head banging to both the older names from the scene and those that smack of the present.

## CANNIBAL CORPSE

**'TORTURE'**  
(METAL BLADE)



Face it: the thing you fear most, more than the usual cover "Castigata" without getting into any problems of censorship or certain gore oriented lyrics written by Corpsgrinder, is the fact that this is the twelfth album in over twenty years of the career of the otherwise timeless Cannibal Corpse

from Buffalo New York. There is the legitimate terror of playing the sound track for the first time and being tortured by a band satisfied, smug, and belly full at last; But Alex Webster is always pro on the bass, and his band-mates weave together twelve new compositions, odes to the brutal-death genre of AC/DC, and unpretentious homages to raw classic rock reminiscent of sweat and cold beer. Apart from a regular deceleration in the 'Scourge Of Iron', the rest is simply a beautiful massacre ('Demented Aggression', 'Encased In Concrete', 'The Strangulation Chair', etc.) like in the old times of 'Tomb of the Mutilated' and of the previous singer Chris Barnes. It's a supreme album for whoever loves the genre. And believe me, there are more than a few enthusiasts.

## HIGH ON FIRE

**'DE VERMIS MYSTERIIS'**  
(CENTURY MEDIA)

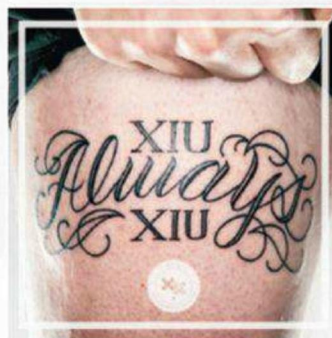


The High on Fire serve as the perfect vehicle to convey the Metal groove, period. Nothing might be left to say at this point. Nevertheless, there would be rather a lot to say about this sixth episode on the rise to fame of Matt Pike formerly known as Sleep, especially if we want to remember his lapses into

drug addiction. As such, perhaps, we might say that the evocative 'De Vermis Mysteriis' was inspired by the apocalyptic writings of H.P. Lovecraft, or that this final culmination of their esoteric art is recast in the same style as Black Sabbath and Slayer. A little like 'Bloody Knuckles' serves as a glaring example. Motorhead and Melvins is composed of progressive song structure and mud that sinks between sludge and even black metal (don't miss out on the title track). This comes with more fantastic and solid production by Kurt Ballou who invented the sound of the Converge and knows what he's doing. Post-metal masterpiece of the year? The signs are in its favor.

## XIU XIU

**'ALWAYS'**  
(BELLA UNION)

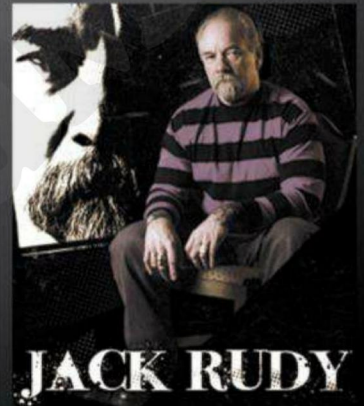
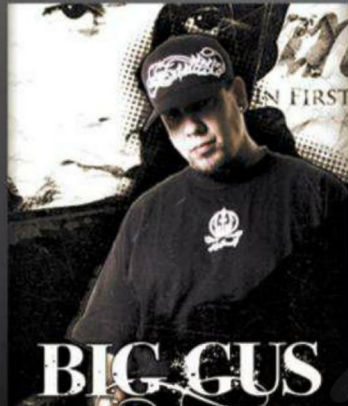
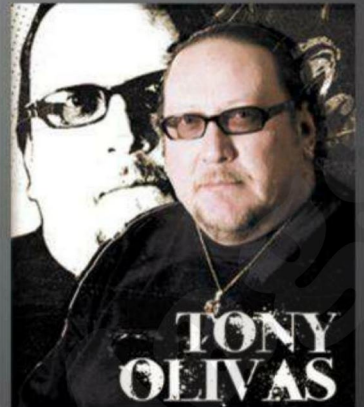
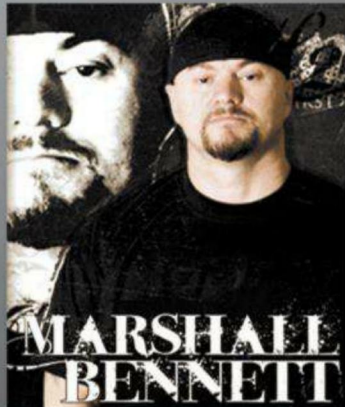
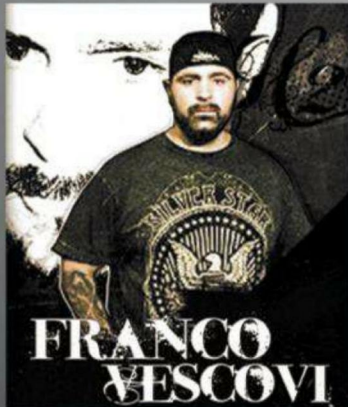
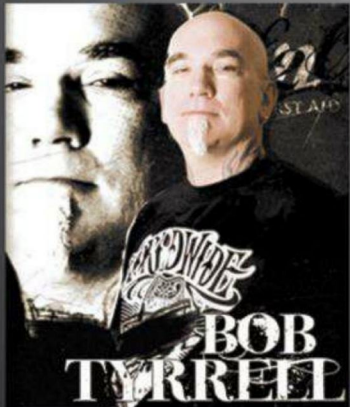
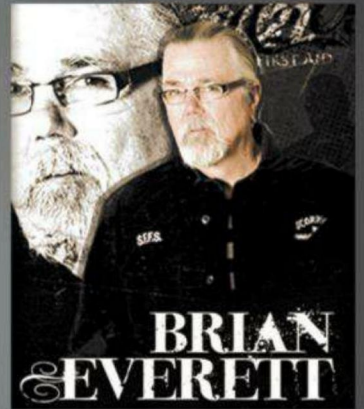
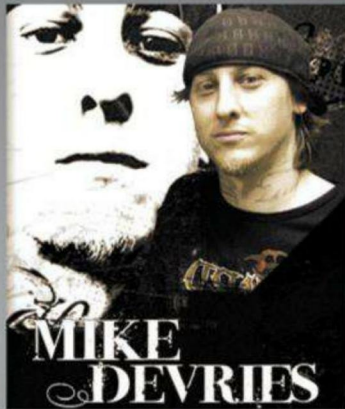
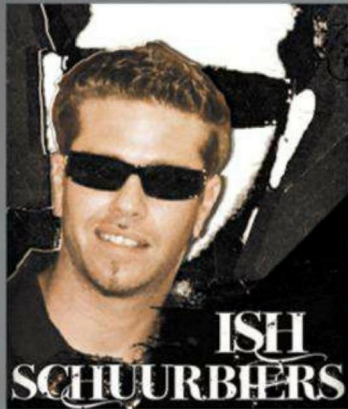
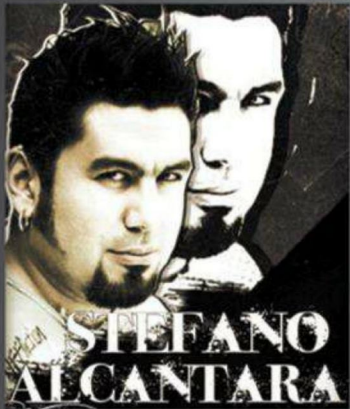
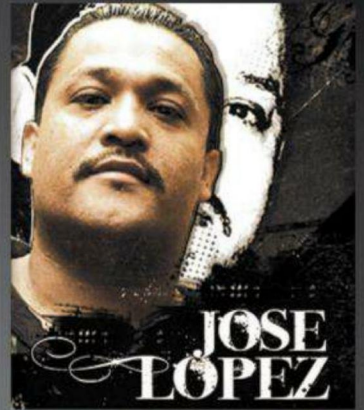
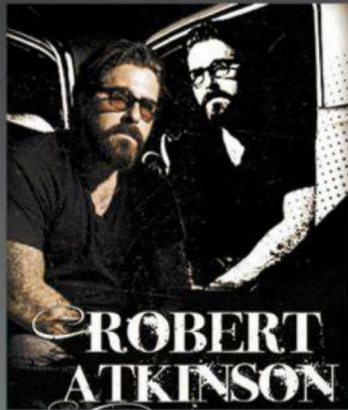
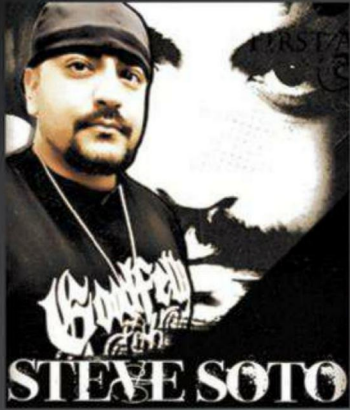


How could we let a disk with such a catchy cover in black and gray lettering get away from us? Obviously we couldn't; thus we welcome you into the disturbing poetry of Mr. Jamie Stewart, the man behind the alias Xiu Xiu. With his new and intriguing "Always," he rediscovers his footing after

having lost it to the overly-abstract penultimate 'Dear God, I Hate Myself' from 2010. Jamie displays his most genuine passions (80s synth-pop, the existentialism of the Cure and the Smiths, the anxious post-punk son of the Einsturzende Neubauten, and even educated suggestions in the spirit of Steve Reich) presenting us with a woeful collection of twelve songs caught between the irate and the light-hearted, analog and silicone, noise and quietude, in dedication to the brutal realities of this old and battered world. It's an important work, even popy around the edges, but profound in its message. Hot stuff, in other words: stuff by Xiu Xiu.



# ARE YOU AFTERCARELESS? THEY AREN'T!








Phil Newman, New Skool Tattoo, USA





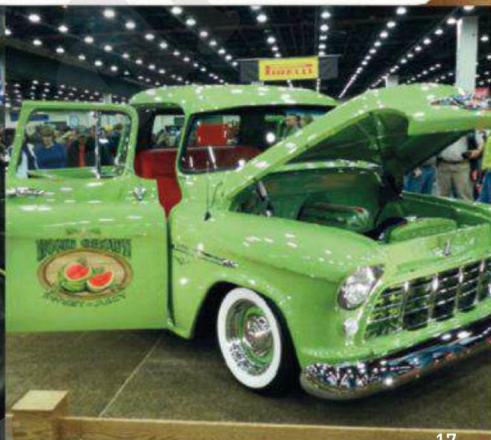
# 17TH ANNUAL MOTOR CITY TATTOO EXPO DETROIT

CONVENTION

PHOTOS BY RICHARD TODD

FEBRUARY  
24TH-26TH 2012

Joe Johns, Wizards World, Stowe, USA





## CONVENTION

Beto Munoz, Rising Poenix Tattoo, Addi



BJ Munger, Dixie Tattoo, Waterford, USA



**A** TRUE REUNION OF BIG AMERICAN ARTISTS: JACK RUDY, MIKE DEVRIES, BOB TYRRELL, TONY CIAVARRO, BIG GUS, NICK COLELLA, CHAD KOEPLINGER, AND ANOTHER HUNDRED OR SO OTHERS ARRIVED FROM EVERY PART OF THE UNITED STATES IN THE COLD CITY OF MICHIGAN TO RECREATE AN EVENT THAT REPEATS ITSELF EVERY YEAR: AN EXCITING WEEKEND THAT PRESENTS TO THE CITIZENS OF DETROIT FACES AND EXPRESSIONS NEW IN TATTOO. HERE IN THE VAST AND WELL-ESTABLISHED LOCATION AT THE RENAISSANCE CENTER-MARRIOTT HOTEL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS THE BEST OF THE 17TH ANNUAL MOTOR CITY TATTOO CONVENTION, ONE OF THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS IN AMERICAN TATTOO.



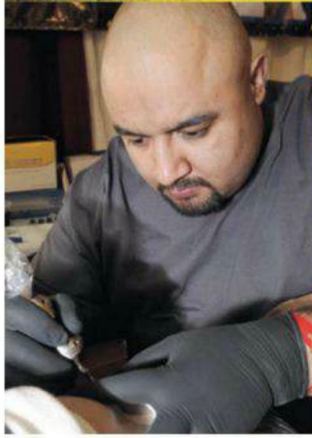
Chris Pchelka, Divine Machine Tattoo, USA



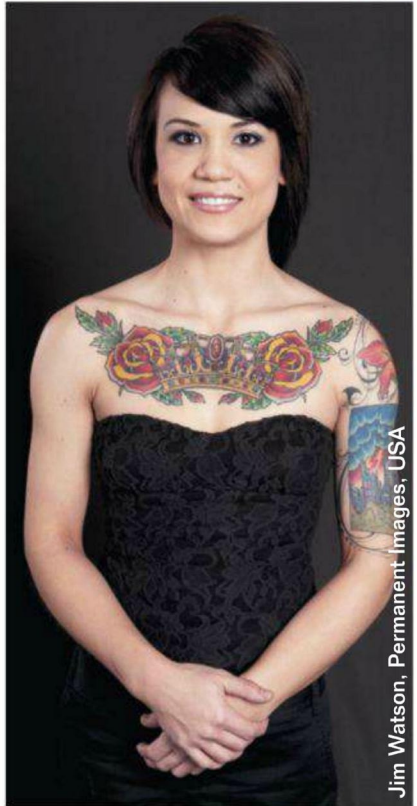




Mathew Hockaday, Dixie Tattoo, USA



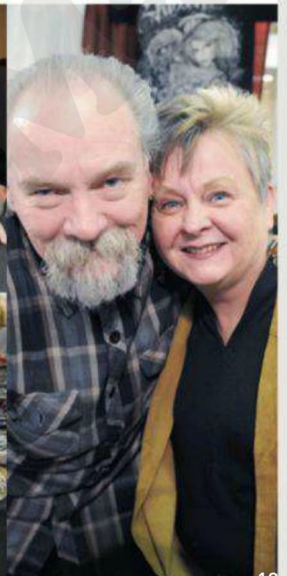
# 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MOTOR CITY TATTOO EXPO DETROIT



Jim Watson, Permanent Images, USA

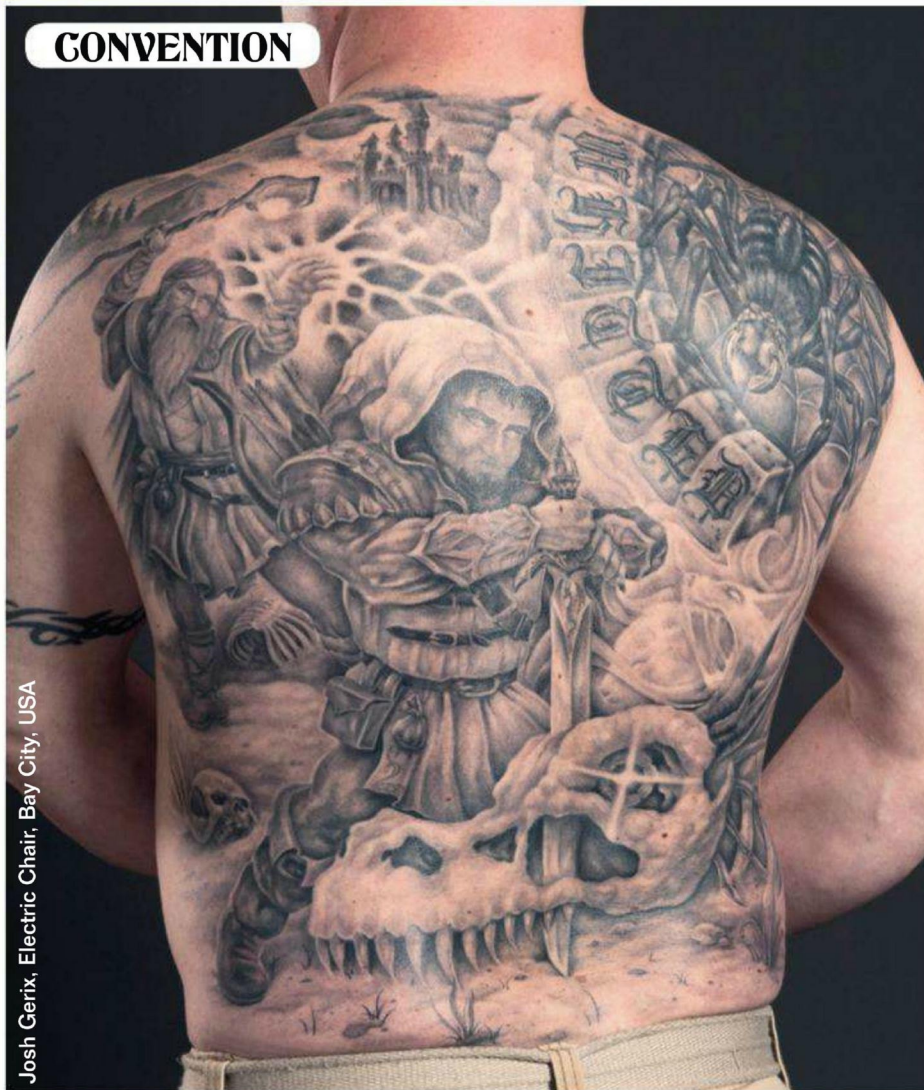


Doug Billian, Calaveras, Kallen, USA





# CONVENTION



Josh Gerix, Electric Chair, Bay City, USA



Saen Herman, Sean Herman Tattoo, USA



Beto Munoz, Rising Phoenix Tattoo, USA



Jeff Gogue, Gogue Art, Grants Pass, USA



# 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MOTOR CITY TATTOO EXPO DETROIT



Liz Cook, Rebel Muse, Dallas, USA



Phil Newman, New Skool Tattoo, USA



Beto Munoz, Rising Phoenix Tattoo, USA



# CON SAFOS

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THE WHITENESS OF THE PAGE. HOMAGES BY TATTOO ARTISTS TO CHICANO CULTURE THE WORLD OVER.

THE SUBTLE BLACKNESS OF THE PEN AND THE GREY NUANCES OF THE PENCIL.

140 SHEETS WITH INTERPRETATIONS OF SUBJECTS OF THIS TRADITION AND ITS REVISITATIONS.

'WITH SAFOS', NAMELY 'WITH RESPECT'.

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## COVER GIRL

TEXT BY SIMONE SACCO  
PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN SAINT



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# EL WOOD PRETTY

# GIRLIE TATTOOS

IF SHE COULD SHE WOULD DRESS HERSELF AS A KITTEN EVERY SINGLE DAY, AND SHE CONSIDERS TATTOO TO BE NOT ONLY A SENTIMENTAL MATTER, BUT AN UNABASHEDLY FEMININE ONE. SHE STUDIED TATTOO, WORKED AT FRITH STREET TATTOO IN LONDON, AND NOW SHE IDOLIZES TRADITIONAL THE WAY WE (OBVIOUSLY) IDOLIZE HER. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WE PRESENT YOU EL WOOD.

**H** I EL, WHEN DID YOUR PASSION FOR TATTOOS AND TATTOO ART IN GENERAL START EXACTLY?

I started learning about the history of tattoos when I was about 16. I loved contextual studies, and I remember having to write an essay on different artists that influenced my own art work and studies. A lot of the artists I chose to discuss also worked as tattooists. I remember wanting my first tattoo when I was about 10 after seeing my older brother's

**DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR FIRST TATTOO?**

My first piece was a half sleeve - almost. I still haven't got my inner arm finished! It's cherry blossoms, butterflies, smoke, and roses. It's, I suppose, neo-traditional, but it was inspired by some Japanese art. I remember having it already booked in before I was 18 so that when I was 18, I could immediately start my sessions!

**SO, ARE YOU ATTRACTED BY NEO-TRADITIONAL STYLE?**

I guess so. I went and worked at Frith St. tattoo for a year and fell in love with traditional tattoos. I learnt so much working there about the history and different tattoo cultures. I also met so





## COVER GIRL



many brilliant people, and now my favorite style is traditional! As for the subjects of my tattoos, they seem to stay pretty girly. I try to keep my pieces quite feminine.

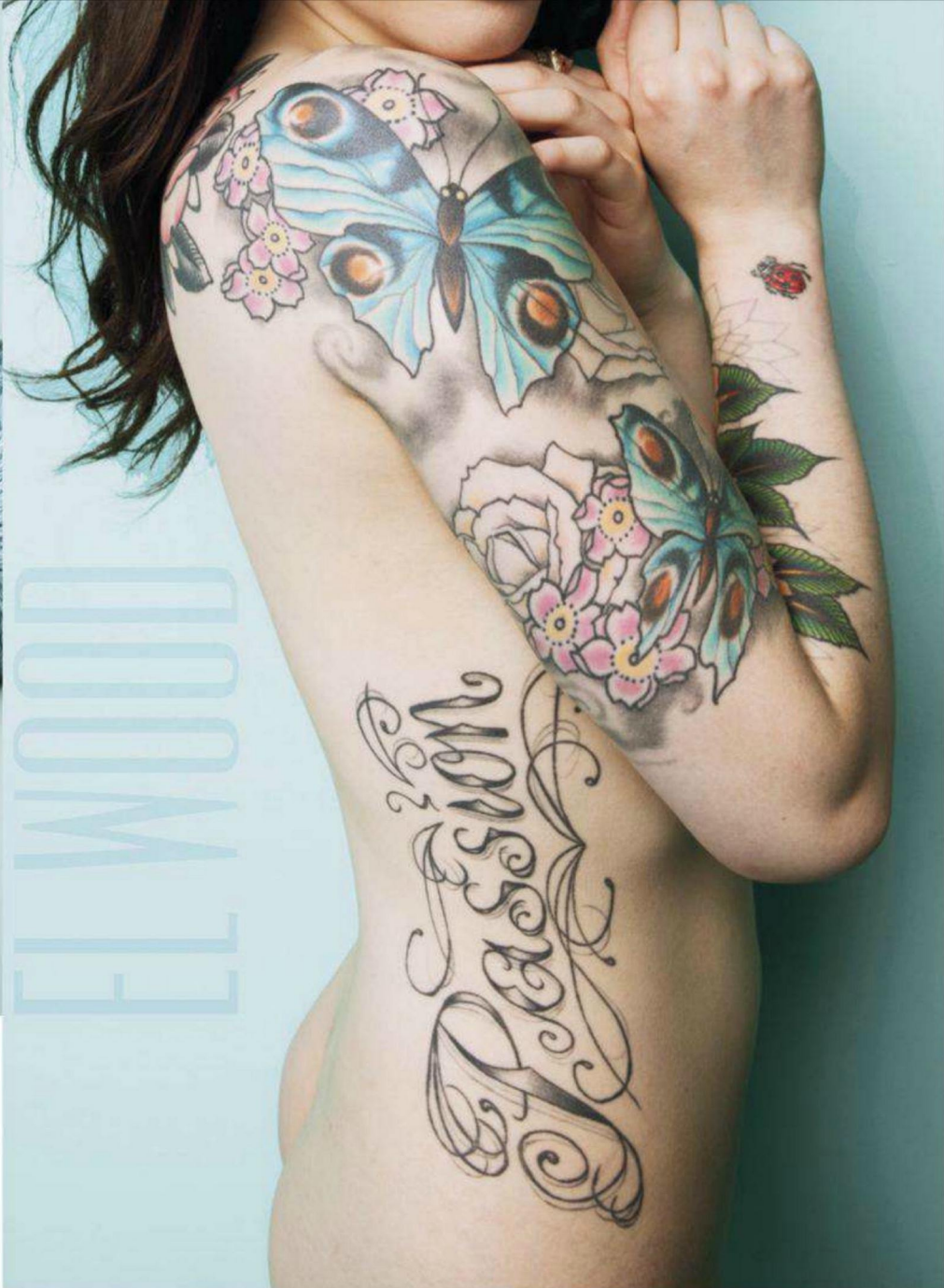
### **ALONG YOUR HIP YOU GOT INKED WITH THE LETTERING 'PASSION': IS PASSION YOUR GUIDING LIGHT THROUGH YOUR LIFE AND WORK?**

I suppose so. I think at the time I definitely felt that way. In all honesty though, I was young and I also just wanted some pretty script (laughs, Ed.)! But yes, passion for life is important!

### **LET'S TALK ABOUT THE WOMAN WITH THE CLOCK AROUND HER NECK: DO YOU THINK THIS TATTOO IN PARTICULAR HAS A SPECIAL MEANING FOR YOU?**

My tattoos are not really that sentimental, I just wanted her to look like she was in some kind of dreamy whirl-wind, and Valerie Vargas did a great job at that.

### **WHY IS THE NUMBER "21" SO CLOSE TO YOUR ANKLE?**



Stewart Robson did it for me on my 21st birthday - probably one of the nicest birthdays I have had, so I suppose it may well be one of my only sentimental tattoos!

### **WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE TATTOO-ARTISTS?**

This is difficult because there are so many. Firstly, the level of work that goes on at Frith St. Tattoo, London is exceptional! Each artist there really is brilliant at what they do, and they all deserve to be my favorites! Right now though I am really enjoying seeing work from Jordan Teeaar, Steve Boltz, Mohawk John, Daniel Albrigo, Frank Carter, and Stefan Johnsson to name but only a few! I could go on and on!

### **HAS IT BEEN FUN PLAYING THE ROLE**

### **OF "CAT WOMAN" IN THE TATTOO LIFE SHOOTING?**

Oh I loved it! I was so, so, so, jetlagged, and had worked all day, so it was a struggle to keep my eyes open, but I absolutely adored the concept, and was more than thrilled to work with the photographer. I have wanted to meet him since before I was even tattooed! I wish I could dress like a cute kitten every day!



A black and white photograph of a man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a leather jacket. He has extensive tattoos on his arms. The background is dark and industrial.

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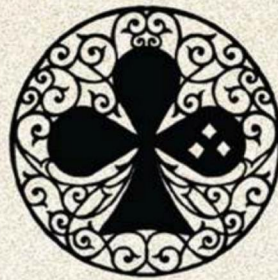
Seth Wood

Chris O'Donnell



**TATTOO ARTISTS**

THE KINGDOM OF



# SAVED TATTOO

BY MARGHERITA BALENI

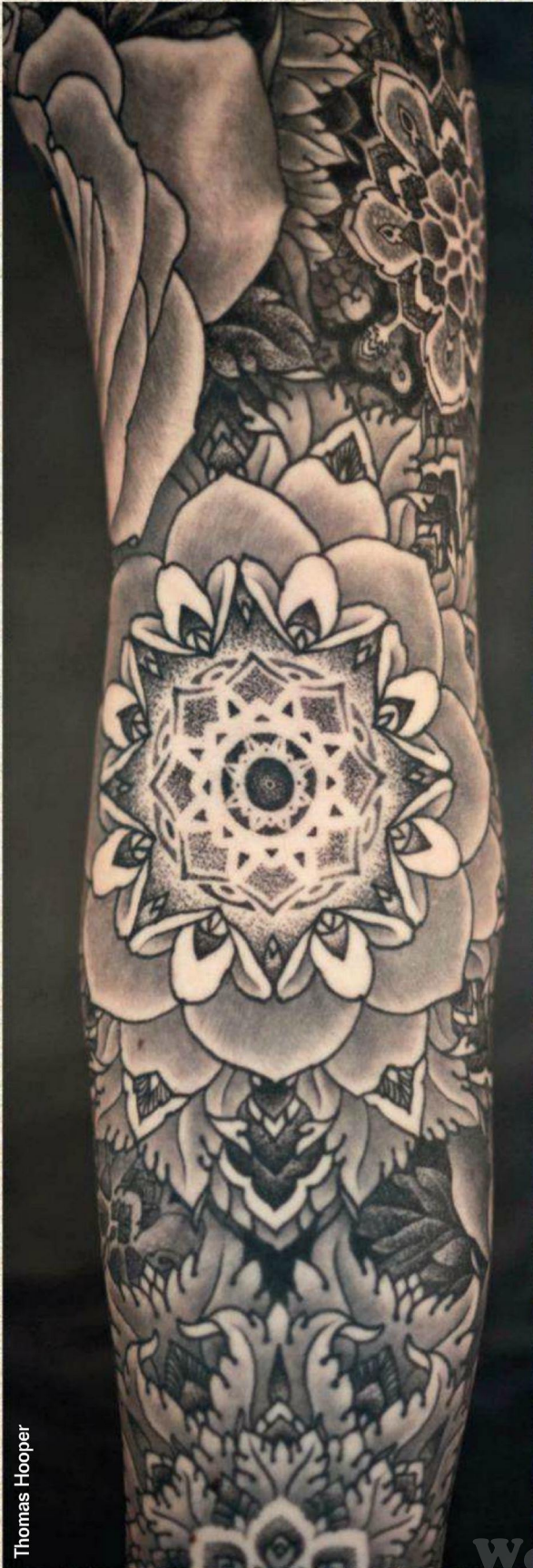


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## TATTOO ARTISTS

THIS IS A GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS WORKING TOGETHER IN NEW YORK WHO TATTOO IN WILDLY DIFFERENT STYLES. THEY ARE LOCATED AT THE SAVED TATTOO SHOP IN BROOKLYN, A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL COLLECTIVE EFFORT THAT HAS ATTRACTED NINE TALENTED TATTOO ARTISTS TO BE PART OF A SPECTACULAR TEAM. OPENING THE DOOR TO SAVED AND HOSTING US IS CHRIS O'DONNELL, CO-OWNER OF THE STUDIO WITH ITS ORIGINAL FOUNDER SCOTT CAMPBELL.



Thomas Hooper



Cris Cleen

Seth Wood







Scott Campbell



**BEFORE  
WE KNEW IT  
WE WERE  
9 ARTISTS  
WORKING  
UNDER  
ONE ROOF.  
IT DEFINITELY  
WASN'T  
INTENTIONAL, IT  
JUST HAPPENED  
NATURALLY.**

it simple over all, but the interior space is really nice with a full wall of exposed brick, and most of the work we did utilizes salvaged barn wood and old metal. Of course the walls are covered with drawings and paintings, but the set up looks more like some kind of design studio rather than a tattoo shop. It's really all about the function as compared with a more traditional set up.

#### **WHY THE NAME SAVED TATTOO?**

Scott came up with the name, and I'm sure it has some personal meaning to him. For us it has just been become a word that we use to identify our collective group. It just seems to sound right.

**ALL OF YOU HAVE COMMON GROUND, EVEN THOUGH EACH DIFFERS IN THE EXPLORATION OF THE TRADITIONAL FOR EXAMPLE, OR IN THE CHOICE OF SUBJECTS AND THEMES: AT TIMES YOU DRAW FROM CHILDREN'S FAIRY TALES, THOSE OF SETH WOOD FOR EXAMPLE, OTHER TIMES FROM LEGENDS AND STORIES. EVEN IN THE CHOICE AND "DEFORMATION" OF SIMPLE SUBJECTS, YOU TREAT OLDER AND MORE GENUINE TRADITIONAL RATHER THAN TRADITIONAL RELATED TO VICTORIAN INFLUENCES AND LIBERTY, FOR EXAMPLE: SCOTT, MICHELLE, ANDERSON, ZAC, STEPHANIE, OR EVEN TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SUCH AS YOUR OWN, CHRIS. WHAT ARE YOUR ARTISTS' DISTINCTIVE MARKS?**

Everyone at Saved has their own distinctive styles. It's not something we could have planned but it's really exciting to be in this



Michelle Tarantelli

**N**INE TATTOO ARTISTS IN ONE STUDIO IN BROOKLYN. HOW WAS THIS UNION BETWEEN TOP ARTISTS BORN?

Originally Scott Campbell opened Saved Tattoo in a different part of Brooklyn. A little after he moved to the current building, he decided to ask me to help him run the shop, so I moved in as co-owner, and I brought some of my friends to join the crew that was already there. Before we knew it we were 9 artists working under one roof. It definitely wasn't intentional, it just happened naturally.

#### **WHAT IS THE LAYOUT OF THE STUDIO?**

The shop is just one big open space, so we keep the floor arrangement flexible. This approach seems to work the best. The shop only feels as crowded as the amount of people working on any given day. We keep

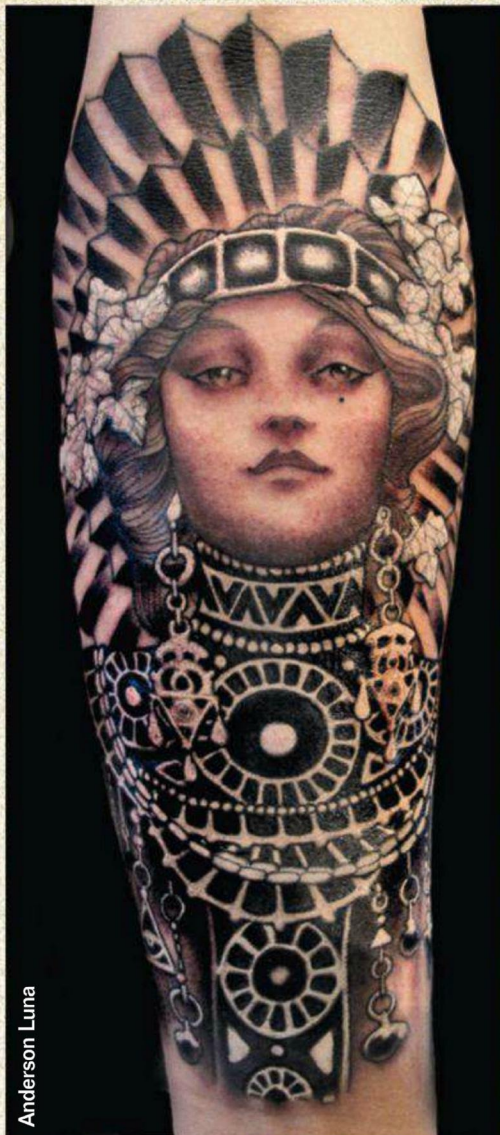




## TATTOO ARTISTS



Anderson Luna



Anderson Luna



Michelle Tarantelli



Seth Wood

creative environment every day. It keeps you from falling into a rut and thinking you've seen it all. No artist in this shop draws like the other. Each has his own distinctive style. We share certain reoccurring subjects, but nothing ever seems to come out looking even remotely similar. I think it's the single most important quality at Saved. It's a group of like-minded people in the same room from different backgrounds working with completely different styles. None of us seem to want to get locked into one style or one theme. We're all so heavily influenced by so many different types of art to attempt to try to pick a trademark. Everyone's abilities and sensibilities are evolving constantly, so it's hard to pinpoint what's going to happen next.

### ARE THERE RECURRING THEMES AND STYLES?

We may all share certain recurring subjects in our work, but mainly what styles and themes we end up working with depend on what our customers asked for firstly, but then also what we've experienced as people mixed with a huge amount of trial and error.

You naturally gravitate toward what you're interested in stylistically, but it really only becomes obvious in hindsight. You look back on your body of work, and you can finally see what you were doing all of those years.

### FOR CUSTOM TATTOOING, SEEING AS HOW YOU ARE ALL CUSTOM TATTOO ARTISTS, IS THERE A POSSIBLE EXCHANGE BETWEEN YOU? AMONG WHO FOR EXAMPLE?

For the most part everyone has their own clientele, but we also get a lot of collectors too, so someone might sit with me one day, and you'll see them sitting with someone else the next. Usually that means they've come from far away, and want to make the most of their trip. You'll also see that they've gotten tattooed by our friends at other local shops. You get to see a lot of great work that way.

### WHAT IS A DEFINING FEELING THAT YOU ALL HOLD IN COMMON?

One of the most important things we have in common is a friendly work environment. If you don't have a healthy tattoo shop then





Scott Campbell



Chris O'Donnell



**THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALITY AT SAVED: IT'S A GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE IN THE SAME ROOM FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS WORKING WITH COMPLETELY DIFFERENT STYLES.**

the work will suffer. You could be the best tattoo artist to ever live, but if you cause me trouble by upsetting all of your co-workers, then you have to go. You just won't last here. If I don't want to deal with that kind of disturbance, then I can't ask anyone else to have to deal with it either. Maintaining that balance is so important because this job should be fun. Tattooing can be really fun.

**IN ADDITION TO THE ARTISTIC ASPECT THERE IS ALSO THAT MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE STUDIO AND YOUR BUSINESS. HOW ARE YOU ARE GETTING AROUND IN THIS SENSE?**

As co-owner of the shop I choose not to do any real promotion. I believe the work of everyone here speaks for itself. With the website and then the blog, it's pretty easy to get the message of what we're about, and what we do without advertising. We also get fairly booked up, so if I advertised for walk-ins, but didn't have any one available to actually do the work, then all you end up with is a disappointed person who just wanted to get a tattoo but who gets sent away.

That's just a waste of their time. We seem to attract the clients that like what we do anyway, so we'll just stick with that. It's really all about focusing on the work. Perfect your craft, the clients will come.

**AND THE RULES THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN YOURSELF TO BEST RUN SUCH A COMPLEX MACHINE?**

Be nice to everyone inside the shop, both customers and co-workers. Nobody cares if you're hung-over or if you had a bad



# TATTOO ARTISTS

Stephanie Tamez



Seth Wood



Thomas Hooper



Thomas Hooper



Seth Wood



Anderson Luna







Cris Cleen



Zac Scheinbaum



Chris O'Donnell



getting a permanent guest artist station set up so we can invite more people to come through.

#### HOW DO YOU POSITION YOURSELF IN RELATION TO THE REALITIES OF FACEBOOK, TWITTER, BLOGS, ETC...

I think for most of us, social media like Facebook and Twitter are strictly tools and nothing else. These days it would be very difficult to run a successful business and to ignore the internet all together. People would literally think you quit tattooing or died or something. It's become such a fixation for so many people that people have stopped searching things out for themselves. Like, if it isn't on the internet then what?

#### WHAT FEEDBACK HAVE YOU RECEIVED FROM A CITY LIKE NEW YORK?

New York is the greatest city in the world. Firstly there's just so many people here to tattoo, and so many of them are doing interesting things. People move here to become someone, or pursue an exciting career. It's also a great destination city, so people don't mind flying great distances for a tattoo project. It's almost as if sometimes tattooing is an excuse to get to come hangout in New York City. That and it's just so nice to live and work in a city with so much going on anytime day or night. If you can't find something in New York it probably doesn't exist.

#### WILL WE SEE SAVED TATTOO AT A CONVENTION? DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING IN ADVANCE?

We sometimes do conventions but not very often anymore. We do the Bay Area/San Francisco Convention. Thomas, Seth and I are going to do the Long Beach Convention this year, and at sometime the Austin Show. I think the guys want to start doing them more and more now. It just depends on what's going on that year. I've done almost all of Miki Vialotto's conventions in Europe dozens of times. It's really nice to get out into the world every once and a while, get inspired, and try to learn some new tricks. We'll post on our blog any and all conventions we plan to do in the near future.

experience that morning. Everyone has their own shit they're dealing with, and no one deserves to be treated poorly, especially if you're tattooing them. If you're mean to your client, all they're going to see when they look at that tattoo you did is what a horrible experience they had getting it. No matter how great a job you did, it's tainted. If you can't treat your clients with respect then you do not deserve to make a living tattooing. The only other rule I can think of for our shop is don't do anything you think will end up being a poor quality tattoo. Just politely decline the job.

#### WILL YOU DO EXHIBITIONS AND GROUP STUDIES?

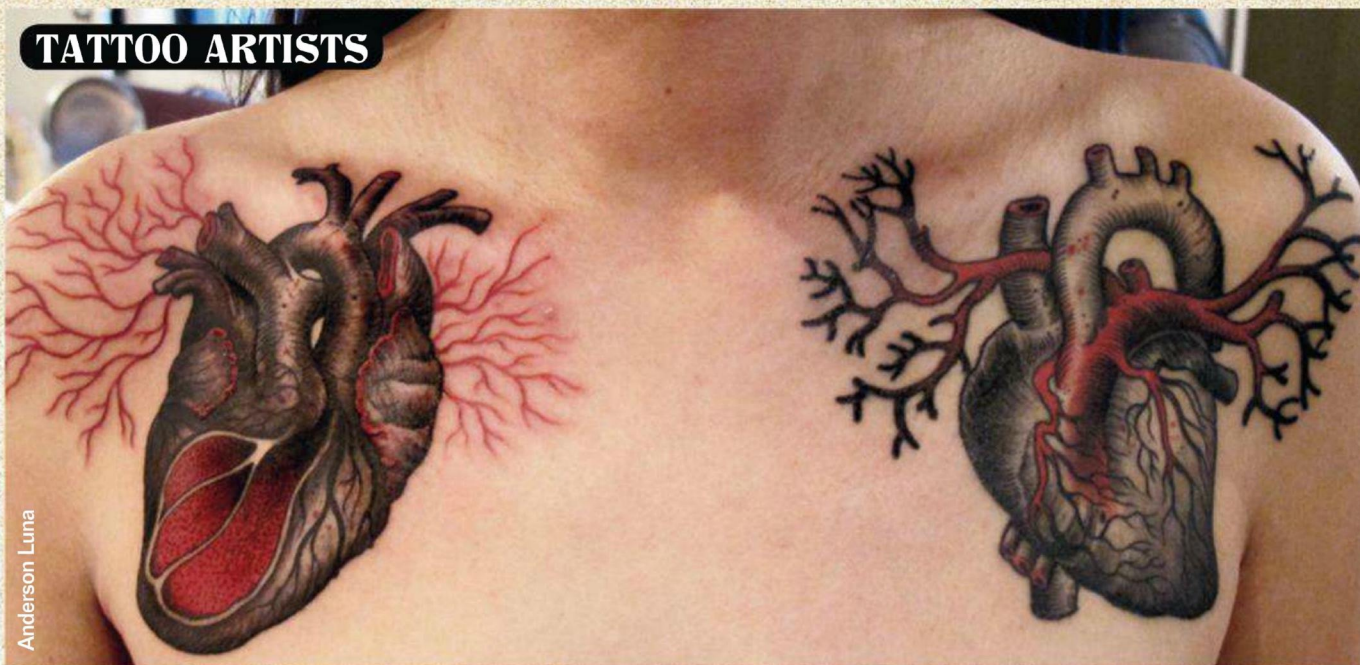
We're considering a group art show down the road sometime. All of our endeavors in painting and other mediums seem to be so far removed from tattooing that I think a collection of ideas thrown together on a gallery wall would be really interesting. Even our shop assistants Jocelyn and Josh are great artists in their own right, so it would be fun to do something that would get their work out there too.

#### ARE THERE PLACES FOR EVENTUAL GUESTS?

We do have some guest artists come through on occasion. Stewart Robson from Frith Street Tattoo in London, Andre Malcolm from Analog, and Scott Harrison. It's hard sometimes with so many tattoo artists here already, but I'm working on



## TATTOO ARTISTS



Anderson Luna



Zac Scheinbaum



Cris Cleen



Chris O'Donnell

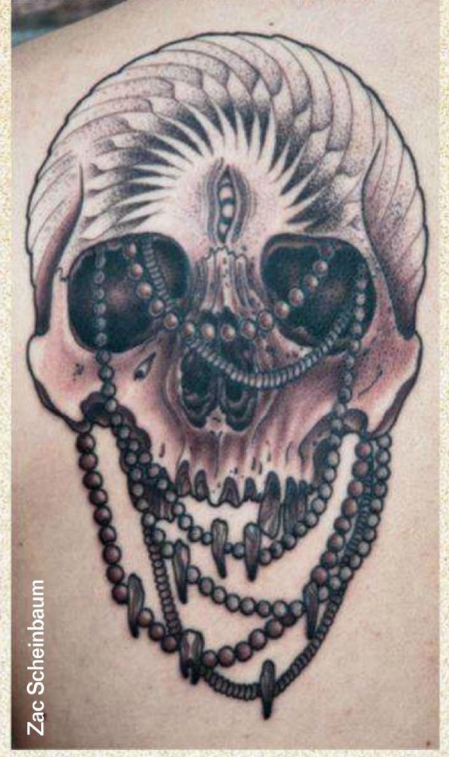




Chris O'Donnell



Scott Campbell



Zac Scheinbaum



Seth Wood



Chris O'Donnell



## TATTOO ARTISTS

### STEPHANIE TAMEZ

BORN IN SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, STEPHANIE IS A GRAPHIC ARTIST TURNED TATTOO ARTIST/PAINTER. SHE MOVED TO NEW YORK CITY IN 2001. HER STYLE IS BASED AND INFLUENCED BY WOODCUTS AND ENGRAVINGS, LITHOGRAPHS, BLACK AND GREY, AND CROSS POLLINATION OF ICONOGRAPHY.

### MICHELLE TARANTELLI

A NATIVE NEW YORKER AND A NATURAL ARTIST, MICHELLE LEARNED TO TATTOO AT NEW YORK ADORNED UNDER CHRIS O'DONNELL, AND IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL TATTOO ARTISTS AT SAVED TATTOO. HER STYLE IS STRONG AND EXACT, LEANING TOWARDS TRADITIONAL AMERICANA TECHNIQUES, BUT OPEN TO A VARIETY OF SUBJECT MATTER.

### THOMAS HOOPER

BORN IN HASTINGS, EAST SUSSEX, HE STUDIED DRAWING AT THE LONDON INSTITUTE OF ART AND DESIGN, SUBSEQUENTLY MOVING FROM LONDON TO NEW YORK CITY TO PURSUE HIS GOALS IN TATTOOING AND ART.

### SETH WOOD

HE'S BEEN TATTOOING FOR 13 YEARS, AND HAS TATTOOED IN OVER 50 CITIES WORLDWIDE. HIS STYLE IS MAINLY BASED ON TRADITIONAL AMERICANA WHILE NOT FALLING BACK ON THE STANDARD HITS. HE IS INFLUENCED BY NATURAL HISTORY, SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATIONS, CHILDREN'S FABLES, THINGS THAT ARE PART TECHNICAL, PART FANTASTICAL, AND THAT HAVE A SORT OF INTRINSIC NARRATIVE.

### CRIS CLEEN

HE WAS BORN IN THE MIDWEST, AND SPENT MOST OF HIS CAREER IN CALIFORNIA UNTIL MOVING TO NEW YORK WHEN HE WAS 10. CRIS IS INTERESTED IN DESIGNING IMAGERY FROM EVERY ERA THAT DRAW FROM THE HUMAN CONDITION: LOVE, LUST, LOSS, LOYALTY, AND PRIMITIVE PERSONAL DESIRES.

### SCOTT CAMPBELL

BORN IN NEW ORLEANS, SCOTT IS THE ORIGINAL FOUNDER OF SAVED TATTOO, AS WELL AS AN ACCOMPLISHED TATTOO ARTIST AND SUCCESSFUL FINE ARTIST.

### ZAC SCHEINBAUM

BORN IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, ZAC APPRENTICED UNDER MARK VIGIL AT FOUR STAR TATTOO. HE MOVED TO NEW YORK IN 2010, AND JOINED SAVED ONE YEAR LATER. HE IS INSPIRED BY METAL, BLACK AND GREY, CATS AND FANTASY.

### ANDERSON LUNA

BORN AND RAISED IN EAST NEW YORK, BROOKLYN, ANDERSON ENJOYS WORKING IN BLACK AND GREY, FINE LINE, ILLUSTRATIONS OF WOMEN, SCRIPT, AND ESPECIALLY RELIGIOUS ICONOGRAPHY. CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, ANDERSON LUNA IS NOT HIS "TAT NAME." HE JUST GOT LUCKY.

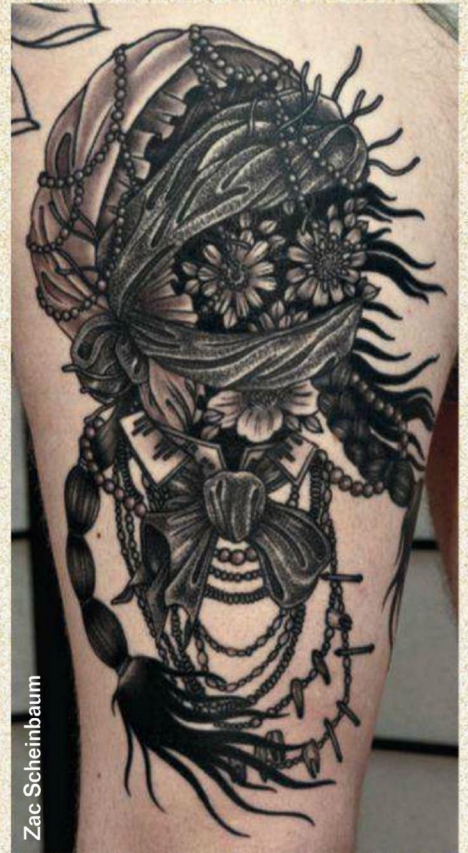
### CHRIS O'DONNELL

BEGINNING HIS TATTOO CAREER IN 1993, CHRIS MOVED FROM RICHMOND VA. TO MANHATTAN IN 2000. AFTER A LONG RUN AT THE RENOWNED NEW YORK ADORNED, HE BECAME CO-OWNER OF SAVED TATTOO. CHRIS SPECIALIZES IN MEDIUM TO LARGE SCALE WORK WHICH IS INSPIRED BY EASTERN AS WELL AS WESTERN CONCEPTS, LEGENDS, AND THEMES.





Stephanie Tamez



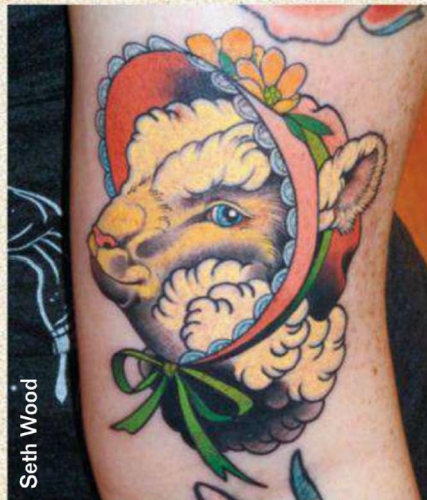
Zac Scheinbaum



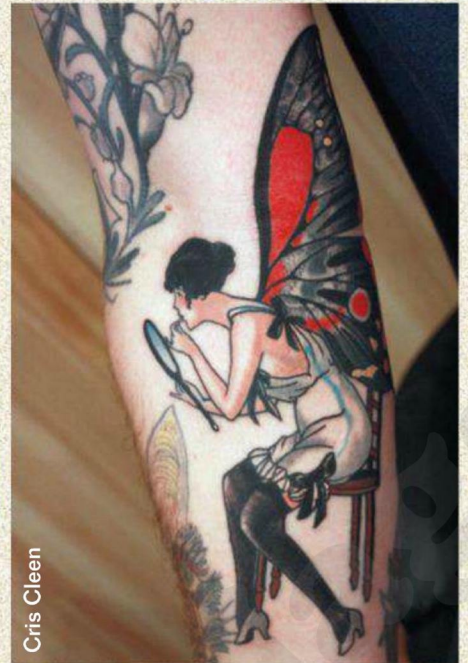
Thomas Hooper



Michelle Tarantelli



Seth Wood



Cris Cleen



Scott Campbell



Chris O'Donnell



Anderson Luna



# The Mingins PHOTO COLLECTION

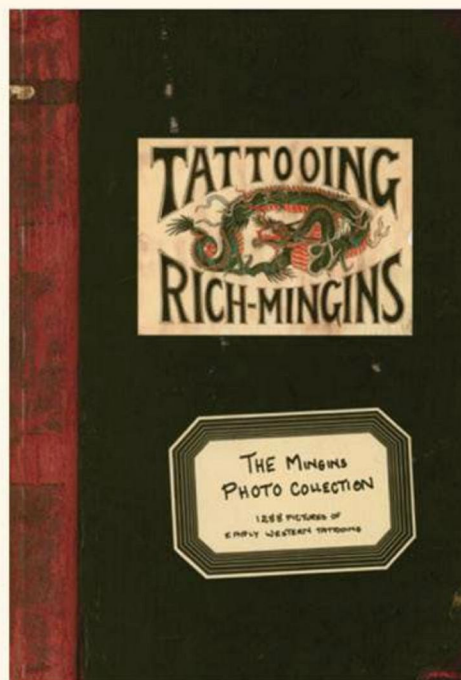
THIS IS NOT JUST A BOOK: ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT WELL KNOWN, THE MINGINS PHOTO COLLECTION IS A BEAUTIFUL OVERVIEW OF THE WORLD OF TATTOOS, A PICTURE STORY THAT TELLS ANECDOTES OF ART-WORKS AND CHARACTERS BELONGING TO A NOT TOO DISTANT PAST, NAMELY THE FIRST HALF OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. IT CAN BE CONSIDERED A TRUE INTRODUCTION TO TATTOOS, EXPLAINS HENK SCHIFFMACHER, AND REPRESENT THE ONSET OF THE AMSTERDAM TATTOO MUSEUM IN THE PUBLISHING WORLD. MAKE ROOM IN YOUR LIBRARY TO HOST THE FIRST OF A LONG SERIES OF VALUABLE WORKS THAT TELL THE STORIES OF THE MOST LEGENDARY TATTOO ARTISTS IN THE WORLD.

## BOOK

Who was Rich Mingins? He was certainly an extraordinary tattoo artist, talented, and prolific, practicing

between 1920 and 1968/70, but was also a reclusive and mysterious character of whom not much is known unfortunately. He worked as a tattoo artist in England for almost fifty years, and was a member of the Bristol Tattoo Club, founded in 1952 by Les Skuse, one of the most ambitious tattoo artists in England. Reluctant to disclose details on his personal life, Mingins appears in this album as an orderly man, meticulous, technically competent, and with profoundly interested in the history of his craft. The Mingins Photo Collection contains hundreds upon hundreds of photos of people that proudly display their own tattoos, including Mingins. Many of them were

tattooed in every possible part of their body. They were all his clients and the clients of other notable artists of his day. This book is a living visual parade of everything that could be possibly drawn on skin with needle and ink. Tattooed men and women display every kind of subject from head to toe, front and back. Rich is also seen, photographed frontally, displaying a large tattoo drawn by his brother Alf depicting Jesus Christ with the crown of thorns. George Bone, also a tattoo artist, and one of the few survivors tattooed by Rich Mings, reveals in the introduction details on the life of Mings: He was a quiet man, and always



smoked. He worked seated on a small bench in a room in the back of his house at 59 Redfern Road in Harlestone, London, while his wife was busy in the kitchen. There was no flash on the wall, just books on the table and a roll of toilet paper next to the bench. It was a small room. We had to wait outside and

we couldn't enter until someone exited. When he worked, he never spoke. His work spoke for him. They were beautiful works and much different from those of other tattoo artists. "The photos numbered and captioned by Rich himself are indispensable documents, and sources of inspiration and knowledge. Browse this book to delve deeper into the discovery of unprecedented themes; it's a narrative of an important chapter on the history of tattoo, and a document with high testimonial and poetic value.

**THE MINGINS PHOTO COLLECTION**  
1288 Pictures Of Early Western Tattooing  
by Henk Schiffmacher, Arlette Kouwenhoven  
Hardcover  
320 pages full colour  
ATM Publishing  
[WWW.KITPUBLISHERS.NL](http://WWW.KITPUBLISHERS.NL)  
[WWW.AMSTERDAMTATTOOMUSEUM.COM](http://WWW.AMSTERDAMTATTOOMUSEUM.COM)







## WWW.JOBCAPOBIANCO.COM ALL THE WOMEN OF JOE CAPOBIANCO

As stated in the bio from his site decidedly rich in photos and information, Joe Capobianco is a fine artist in tattoo and airbrush. His style is widely known as "Capo Girl", and if you aren't already familiar with his famous interpretation of female beauty and eroticism, you certainly will be. Take a look at the gallery well displayed on his site's homepage and discover what makes it what is: an aggressive and ironic sensuality simultaneously psychedelic, shameless and 50s horror inspired. From the link to the store you can buy his publications, posters, gadgets, and through the blog you can find out all movements of Joe, and eventually catch up with him to have him tattoo you one of his splendid wild women.



## WWW.FOREVERTATTOOSAC.COM TRADITIONAL MADE IN CALIFORNIA

You can't talk about tattooing at Sacramento without mentioning Forever Tattoo, one of the studios open since 2003 and currently occupied by five artists: Eiland Hogan, Brent Patten, Chris Danley, Timpac Cyrus, and Ian Carder. Their website's minimal settings and graphics make it very easy to browse and don't leave room for doubt: the artists are specialized in all the traditional styles. Click on their names to find out how they differ from one another and what characterizes their personal interpretations of traditional styles. The section dedicated to their jobs is in fact very extensive and well organized. To learn a little of the shop's history and to find contacts click "About".



## WWW.FURIMMERTATTOO.DE A TATTOO IS FOREVER

Jan, Fide, Cory, Iban, Chandler and Jason are the tattoo artists at the Fur Immer in Berlin. Although their site is in German, it is easily accessible for the immediacy of its contents, mostly photos, since the sections are mostly dedicated to images. A tattoo and art gallery has been created to display the best works of each artist. Shots from the interior of the shop are collected and displayed in the studio gallery section.



The colorful photos contrast against the black background of the site decorated with white skulls that define the mood of the studio: "Dates and Guests," "Merchandise," "Links," and "Contacts" are among the contents which can be accessed from the homepage.

## WWW.ANABI-TATTOO.COM FROM POLAND WITH LOVE

As in Greece, Poland is also cultivating many young artists which are affirming themselves for their talent and ability to customize the most loved and well known styles asked for. This is the case of Anabi Tattoo. Without having to read in Polish, you can access directly from the homepage the section that presents the works of Anabi where you can find press coverage covering him and his world-wide achievements. You'll have an idea of his talent and his fame. His realism is realized in black and white, and the dynamic equilibriums of his compositions are highly technical and achieve almost fairy-tale like elements. Browsing through his works will truly be a pleasure.



## GET YOUR WEBSITE NOTICED!

Do you want to introduce our readers to the wonders of your website? Then contact us at [redazione@tattoolife.com](mailto:redazione@tattoolife.com). We'll check out your site and we might feature it in an upcoming issue of Tattoo Life!





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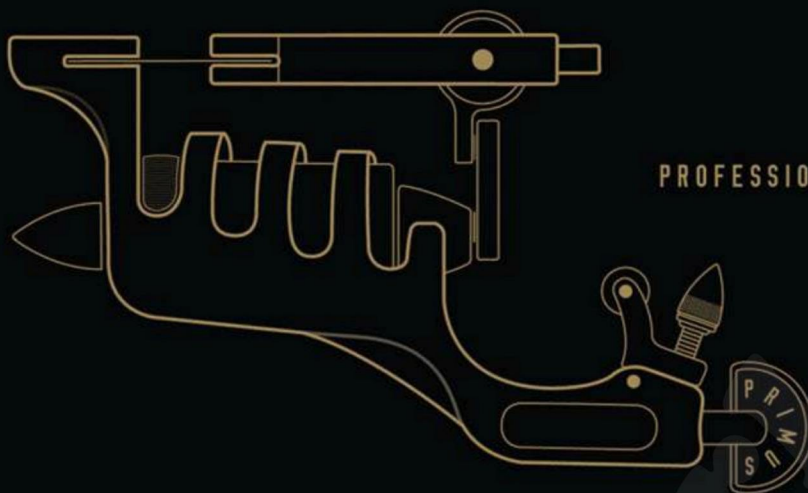


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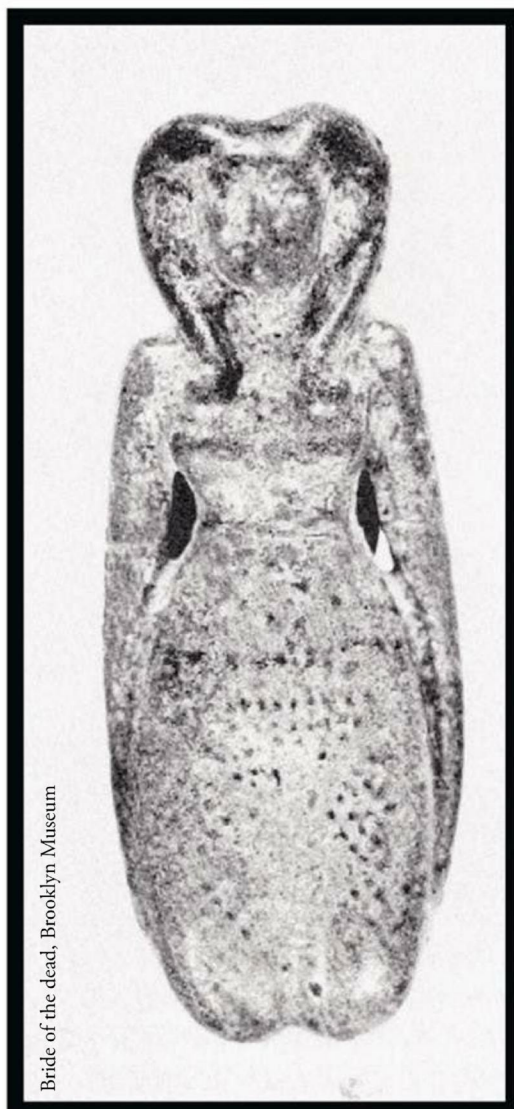


# TATTOO ART IN ANCIENT EGYPT

BY LUISA GNECCHI RUSCONE

*That tattooing was a practice commonly widespread in Egypt has been proven for centuries by archeological findings of clay or bronze figurines on whose bodies are clearly visible tattoo designs, the same designs that appear on the mummified bodies of women from corresponding periods.*

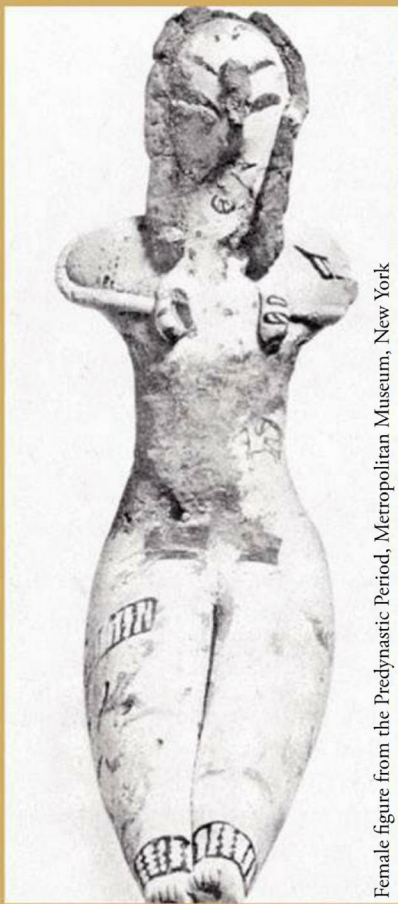
**D**uring the fourth millennium B.C. there evolved in Egypt an urban civilization from which would be born the great emperors. The work of art of this era, called the "Pre-Dynastic period" (from 31 to 27 B.C.), includes male and female figures made of different materials: of these, certain clay female figurines have decorations that are considered to represent tattoos. One of these figurines, currently exhibited at the Metropolitan Art Museum of New York (see figure), has a series of geometric designs of different colors painted on its body. These decorations, that are never found on figurines of male figures, according to scholars, represent tattoos or items of clothing, or both. This interpretation confirms the data of the findings of later periods in which Egyptian tattoos appear always and only on women. Strong evidence of tattooing appear only in discoveries from later periods. During the Predynastic



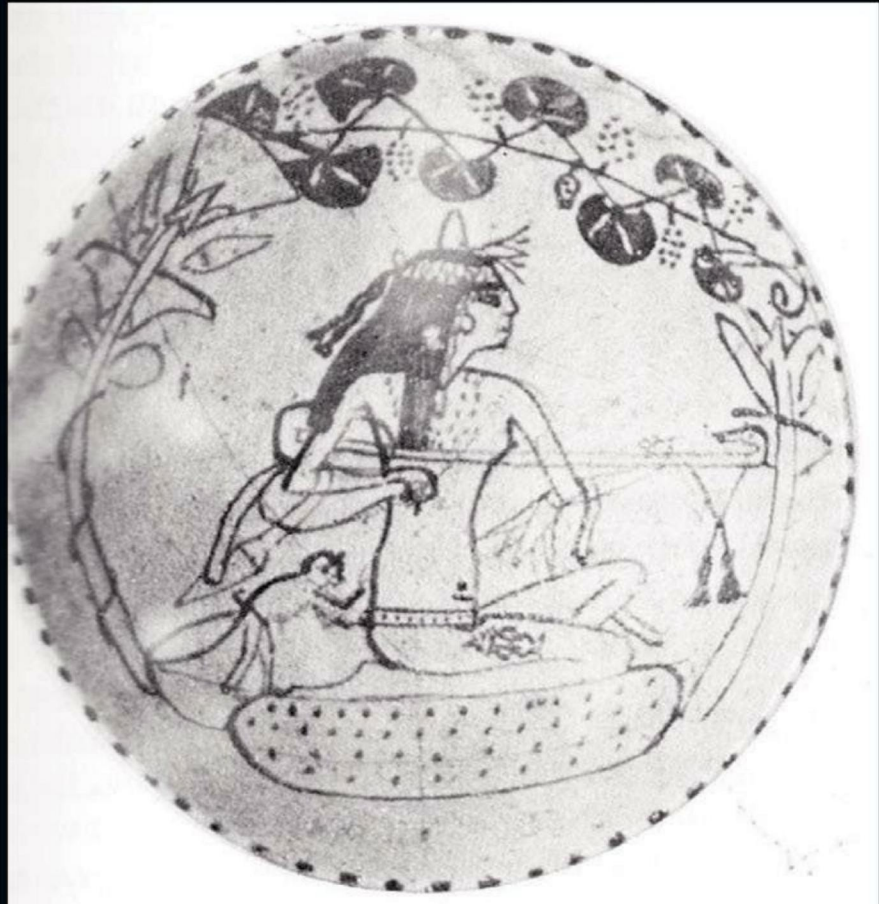
Bride of the dead, Brooklyn Museum

period, the Age of the Pyramids, and the period of upheaval following the collapse of the Old Kingdom between 27 and 22 B.C., there are no archeological discoveries of mummified bodies, arts, or crafts that can prove with certainty the practice of tattooing. Only until later during the Middle Kingdom (21 to 27 B.C.) is there undisputable proof for the existence of its practice. This first firm evidence consists of tattoos preserved on the skin of the mummy of a woman named Amunet who was a priestess of the goddess Hator in Thebes during the XII Dynasty (circa 2160-1994 B.C.). This mummy in excellent condition has tattoos of abstract designs composed by a series of small dots and dashes located in different parts of the body. An elliptical pattern is tattooed on the lower abdomen under the navel, and parallel lines on the thighs and arms. A second mummy, from the same period, is identified as that of a dancer, and is decorated with

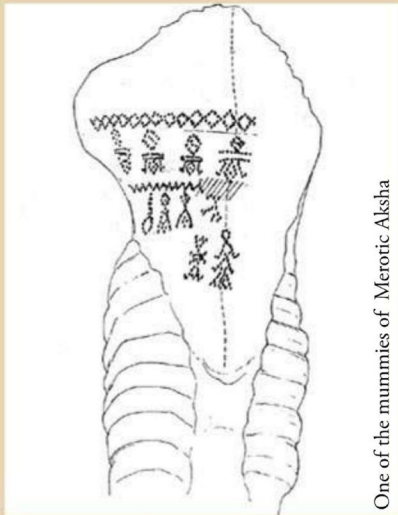




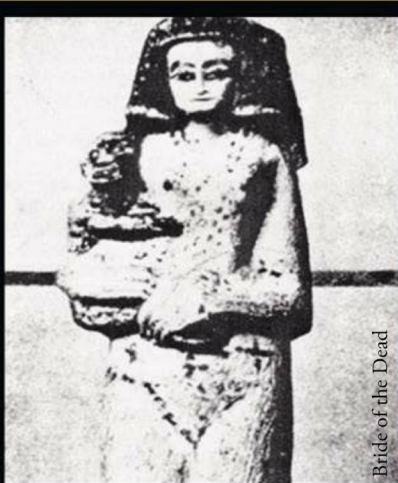
Female figure from the Predynastic Period, Metropolitan Museum, New York



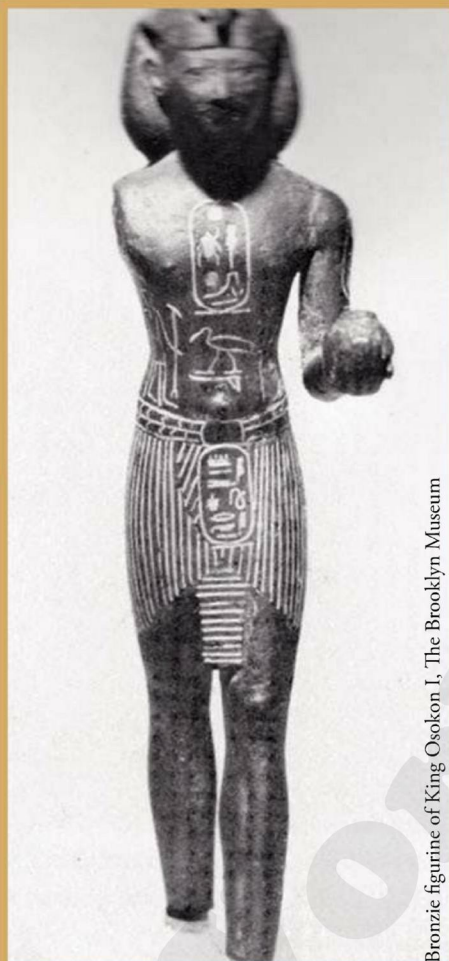
Cup that dates to the New Reign with a representation of a female musician



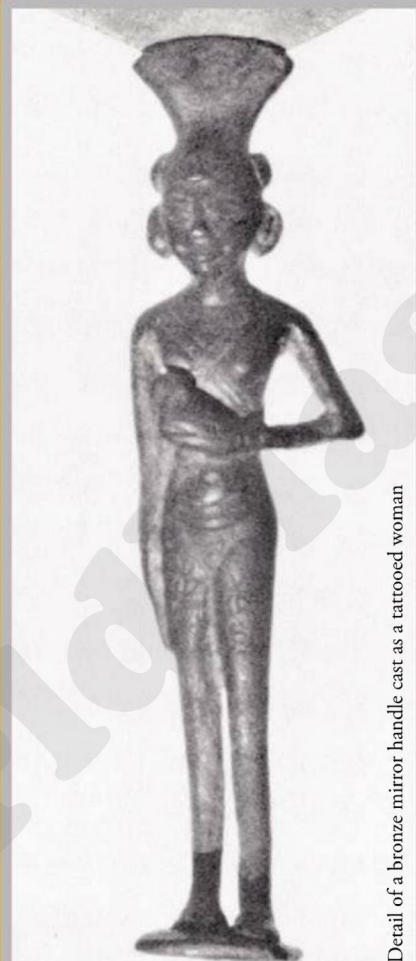
One of the mummies of Merotic Aksha



Bride of the Dead



Bronze figurine of King Osokon I, The Brooklyn Museum



Detail of a bronze mirror handle cast as a tattooed woman



tattoos on her forearms and her chest designed in the form of diamonds. This last mummy exhibits in addition, an evident scar along the lower abdomen that cannot be explained as the outcome of surgery or wounding, given it is extremely superficial and does not penetrate her musculature. A third mummy from the same period has similar tattoos.

The elements and motives of these tattoos appear in a group of porcelain figurines also dated to the Middle Kingdom (circa 2000 A.C.) and generally called "The Brides of the Dead." One of these figurines, exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum, represents a naked female figure that wears a long curly wig that covers her breasts (see image). Such a wig is associated to the goddess Hathor. The body of the female figure is decorated with a series of small black dots; some are diamond shaped and resemble those found on the mummies from the Middle Kingdom mentioned previously. Particularly interesting are the horizontal lines of small black dots in her pubic area consistent with the scars found on the other two mummies.

All these figurines were buried along with the mummified bodies in order to awaken their primitive sexual instincts assuring their rebirth in accordance with an elaborate religious notion related to Osiris, god of Resurrection. The priestess Amunet and the figurines are all associated with Hathor, the most lascivious of the Egyptian goddesses. As the practice of tattooing does not seem to have belonged to the Egyptian civilization preceding the

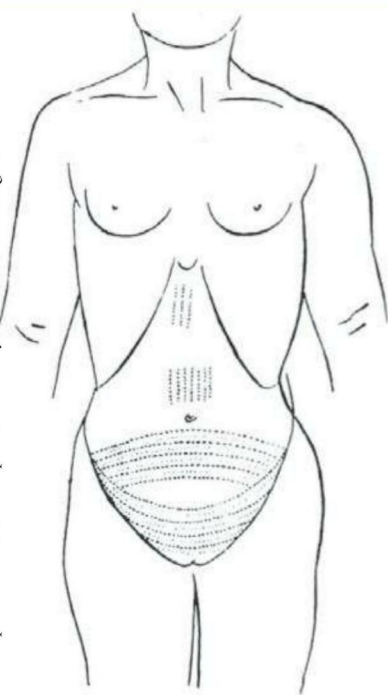
Middle Kingdom, many - but not all - believe that its introduction should be attributed to the Nubians, mainly because it has been shown that Amunet and the other two female mummies from the Middle Kingdom are associated with Nubia.

Since the fourth millennium, the region extending from Aswan (in modern day Egypt) to Khartoum (the capital of Sudan), was the cradle of many civilizations (Called "Group C") independent of Egypt and which flourished during and after the Middle Kingdom. Excavations in the zone of "Group-C" in the Nubian village of Kubban unearthed fragments of a female mummy dating from around 2000 B.C. and therefore are more or less contemporary to the mummy Amunet; the tattoos in this last mummy are very similar to those found on the same Amunet and on the other two mummies. Other excavations in Aksha unearthed another two female mummies, one of a woman and another of an adolescent, with the same tattoos of the Egyptians of the Middle Kingdom and the populations of Group-C (dated to the fourth century B.C.)

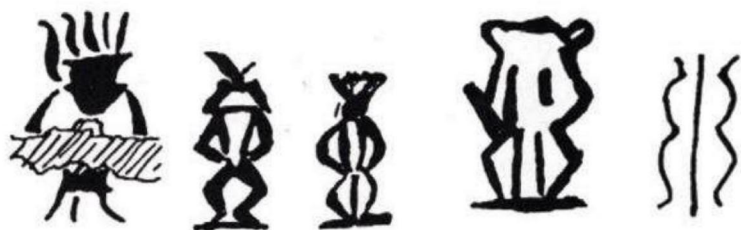
That the tradition of tattooing dots and dashes has persisted in Nubia uninterrupted for at least two millennia can be deduced from a representational tattoo from the New Kingdom (1570 to 1070 B.C.) of a dotted triangle tattooed on the thighs of a Nubian acrobat painted on terracotta fragments found at Thebes (see image, circa 1000 B.C.). It is not currently known if the tattoo taken in Nubia had the same erotic meaning as interpreted by the Egyptians; it is however certain that the Egyptian tattoo was

derived from the Nubian one and was developed throughout the Middle Kingdom. In addition to the abstract patterns of dots and dashes that reflect their Nubian origin, other designs appear in painted decorations, as in the illustration of the "Wives of the Dead," as well as on both clay and porcelain fragments. Some of these new designs are considered tattoos, even if mummies have not been found to confirm it. The most common among these new patterns are the cross and the letter T. Tattooing is definitely part of the cultural traditions of the Egypt of the New Kingdom (from 1550 B.C.

An example of the decorated corpse of a mummy from the Middle Kingdom



Fresco of Deir el Medineh



Selection of images of the god Bes used for tattoos during the New Kingdom



Images of a female Nubian acrobat, 2868 a.c.



Representation of the god Bes



onwards); it continues to be reserved for women but the patterns have changed; the abstract designs formed by dots and dashes have been replaced by depictions of the god Bes, a curious divinity derived from the Lion God of the Predynastic Period. A tattooed image of Bes formed by dots and dashes was found on the thighs of a Nubian mummy from fourth century B.C. Images of Bes tattooed on the thighs of women were also found on porcelain in Leidel depicting a female lute player, and on the thighs of a bronze female figurine cast in the nude serving as a mirror handle which now sits in the Brooklyn Museum on exhibition.

The most elegant tattoo of Bes was discovered in the fresco of a private home in western Thebes depicting a pirouetting dancer; Image of Bes are depicted in dark blue on the thighs of the dancer as on the mummy of Aksha. The fresco implies the image of Bes

was intended to express sensuality; although the ballerina evokes sensuality, the fresco is painted on a wall directly above where is thought to have been positioned a bench used to deliver children: therefore Bes is thought to have been intended to express not only sensuality but also fertility.

The appearance of Bes in association with female nudes exemplifies the theme of "carpe diem" present in many works of art of the New Kingdom, and inextricably links Bes's representations to the lithe yet significant naked Egyptian body.

The tattoos of ancient Egypt were neither original nor primordial. Tattoos made their appearance during the Middle Kingdom in which they appear to have adopted the dot and dash patterns of the Nubians. The functions of these tattoos according to the Nubians is not yet clear, while to the Egyptians tattooing seems to have represented a vehicle

by which the power of the fertility of the dead could assure the subject's future resurrection. Once adopted, tattooing survived throughout the New Kingdom during which the dot and dash pattern came to be associated with images of Bes whose image transmits erotic power to any who come in contact. The handle of the bronze mirror is one example whose message is clear: the woman that grooms herself in front of the mirror hopes to become seductive like the woman depicted in the handle of the mirror. During the New Kingdom Egyptian tattooing had its moment of greatest popularity and diversity.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**  
**MARKS OF CIVILIZATION**  
**ARNOLD RUBIN EDITOR, 1995**



## Miami

**22nd – 24th June, 2012**

The newest convention of Tattoo La Palooza, Tattoo & Fine Art Extravaganza will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Miami, Florida.  
[www.tattoopalooza.com](http://www.tattoopalooza.com)  
[conventionink@gmail.com](mailto:conventionink@gmail.com)

## Genk

**23rd – 24th June, 2012**

A rendezvous with the Belgians, the First International Summer Tattoo Convention will be held in Genk, Belgium.  
[www.summerinkfest.be](http://www.summerinkfest.be)

## Naples

**29th – 30th June, 2012**

The ninth appointment with the Tattoo Expo in Napoli, Italia will take place at the Oltremare exhibition.  
[www.tattooexponapoli.it](http://www.tattooexponapoli.it)

## Bodensee

**6th – 8th July, 2012**

The first appointment with the International Tattoo Convention will be in Bodensee, Germany.  
[www.tattooconventionbodensee.de](http://www.tattooconventionbodensee.de)

## Leeuwarden

**14th – 25th July, 2012**

The Jailbreak Festival - Ink Rattle & Roll will be held this year in Leeuwarden, Netherlands.  
<http://jailbreakfestival.nl>

## Poysdorf

**3rd – 5th August, 2012**

The Fifth Starfire Tattoo Weekend is to be held in Poysdorf, Austria.  
<http://starfiretattoo.com>  
[starfire-tattoo@hotmail.de](mailto:starfire-tattoo@hotmail.de)

## Manchester

**4th – 5th August, 2012**

The new Manchester International Tattoo Show will be held at the Central Convention Complex in the UK.  
[manchestertattooshow.com](http://manchestertattooshow.com)

## Cagliari

**24th – 26th August, 2012**

The fifth edition of Cagliari Tattoo Convention is to be held

at the Convention Center of Hotel Setar in Quartu S. Elena Sardinia, Italy.  
[www.tattooconventioncagliari.it](http://www.tattooconventioncagliari.it)

## Stockholm

**24th – 26th August, 2012**

Appointment with the 16<sup>th</sup> Stockholm Ink Bash, Sweden.  
[www.stockholminkbash.com](http://www.stockholminkbash.com)

## Reutlingen

**31st August & 1st – 2nd September, 2012**

The seventh year for the international Tattoo Convention will be in Reutlingen, Germany  
[www.tattooconvention-reutlingen.de](http://www.tattooconvention-reutlingen.de)

## Boston

**31st August & 1st – 3rd September 2012**

Four days of tattoo at the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel in Boston Massachusetts, USA.  
[bostontattooconvention.com](http://bostontattooconvention.com)

## Lubeck

**1st – 2nd September, 2012**

The fourth edition of the Lubeck Tattoo Convention will be in Germany.  
[tattoo-hl.de](http://tattoo-hl.de)

## Montreal

**7th – 9th September, 2012**

The tenth meeting with The Art of Tattoo will be in Montreal, Canada.  
[www.arttattoomontreal.com](http://www.arttattoomontreal.com)  
[info@arttattoomontreal.com](mailto:info@arttattoomontreal.com)

## Keystone

**13th – 16th September, 2012**

The Colorado Tattoo Convention also known as Paradise Tattoo Gathering will take place in Keystone, USA.  
[www.tattoogathering.com](http://www.tattoogathering.com)

## Forina

**14th – 16th September, 2012**

The appointment with tattoos in Turin will be held in the Sports Hall of Ruffini Park, Italy in 2012.  
[italiantattooartists@virgilio.it](mailto:italiantattooartists@virgilio.it)

## Assen

**14th – 16th September, 2012**

The seventh International Assen Tattoo Convention is to be held at De Bonte Wever Assen, Netherlands.  
[www.tattooexpo.eu](http://www.tattooexpo.eu)

## London

**28th – 30th September, 2012**

The new edition of the "International London Tattoo Convention. The One and Only!" is to be held as always at the Tobacco Dock in East London.  
[www.thelondonattooconvention.com](http://www.thelondonattooconvention.com)

## Chatillon sur Chalaronne

**29th – 30th September, 2012**

The Lugdunum Tattoo Association presents Salon de l'Art Corporel at Espace, Bel-Air.  
[www.lyontattooconvention.com](http://www.lyontattooconvention.com)  
[lyontattoo@orange.fr](mailto:lyontattoo@orange.fr)

## Barcelona

**5th – 7th October, 2012**

The fifteenth meeting with Spanish tattoo at the International Barcelona Tattoo Expo will be in Spain.  
[www.barcelonatattooconvention.com](http://www.barcelonatattooconvention.com)  
[convenciones@pro-arts.com](mailto:convenciones@pro-arts.com)

## St. Gallen

**6th – 7th October, 2012**

The twelfth edition of the Swiss convention is to be held at Fürstenlandsaal Gossau.  
[www.tattoo-convention-sg.ch](http://www.tattoo-convention-sg.ch)

## Brussels

**12th – 14th October, 2012**

A new appointment with the Brussels International Tattoo Convention.  
[www.brusselstattooconvention.be](http://www.brusselstattooconvention.be)  
[info@brusselstattooconvention.be](mailto:info@brusselstattooconvention.be)

## New Jersey

**12th – 14th October, 2012**

The appointment with Inked Out is to be held at Meadowlands New Jersey, USA.  
[inkedoutnj.com](http://inkedoutnj.com)

## Calgary

**12th – 14th October, 2012**

The new edition of Alberta Bound Tattoo & Arts Festival will be held at the BMO Centre Stampede in Calgary Alberta, Canada.  
[calgary2012.homestead.com/](http://calgary2012.homestead.com/)

## Evian

**19th – 21st October, 2012**

The Evian Tattoo Show will be back in France.  
[www.eviantattoo.com](http://www.eviantattoo.com)

## Las Vegas

**26th – 28th October, 2012**

Mario Barth's The Biggest Tattoo Show on Earth will take place as always in Las Vegas, USA.  
[lasvegastattooshow.com](http://lasvegastattooshow.com)

## San Francisco

**26th – 28th October, 2012**

The Bay Area tattoo convention, better known as the Horitaka convention, will take place at the Hyatt Regency in the Bay Area, USA.  
[www.horitaka.com](http://www.horitaka.com)

## New Orleans

**26th – 28th October, 2012**

The twentieth appointment with the twentieth Tattoo Voodoo Expo in the USA will be held in the Metairie District's Best Western Hotel.  
[tattoovoodooexpo.com](http://tattoovoodooexpo.com)

## Ansbach Tattoo Convention

**27th – 28th October, 2012**

The fourth appointment with the German convention of Ansbach will be held in Germany.  
[tattoo-convention-ansbach.de](http://tattoo-convention-ansbach.de)

## Vienna

**3rd – 4th November, 2012**

This autumn the Austrian Appointment with tattoo will be at the Vienna Tatro Convention at the ARCOTEL Wimberger.  
[tattooconvention.at](http://tattooconvention.at)

## Melbourne

**9th – 11th November, 2012**

The new edition of the Melbourne Tattoo & Body Art expo will be in Australia  
[tattooexpo.com.au](http://tattooexpo.com.au)

## Trieste

**16th – 18th November, 2012**

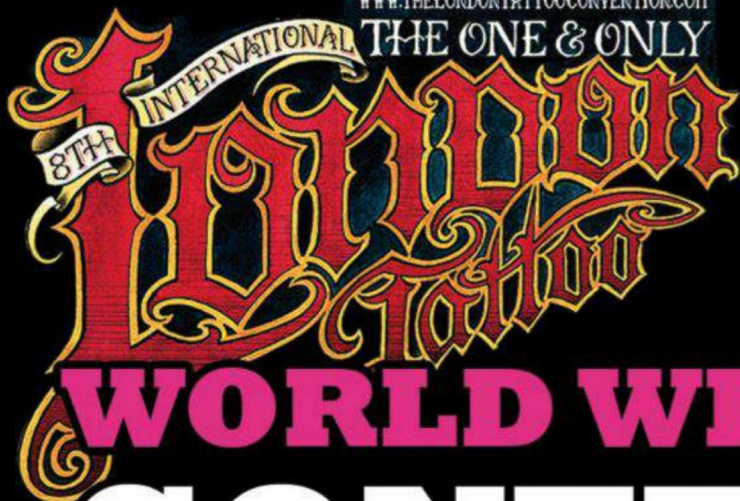
The fifteenth edition of the Tattoo Expo of Trieste will be in Trieste, Italy.  
[www.triestetattooexpo.com](http://www.triestetattooexpo.com)



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Chen, Brave Tattoo, Taiwan

Chen, Brave Tattoo, Taiwan



20th International

CONVENTION

# TATTOO CONVENTION

March 30th - April 1st, 2012

# Frankfurt

TEXT BY VIOLET MCKENZIE  
PHOTOS BY MARCUS EWERS





Max, From Hell Tattoo, Glognitz, Austria



WE REPORT A HISTORIC RENDEZVOUS WITH GERMAN TATTOO ART: THE INTERNATIONAL TATTOO CONVENTION IN FRANKFURT, WHERE 650 TATTOO ARTISTS FROM OVER TWENTY COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE PARTICIPATED.



Fabio, South Ink Tattoo, Naples, Italy



The center of Germany boasts one of the most important trade fairs in the world right here in the efficient but frenzied city of Frankfurt where the great economic and financial power of Europe resides. The organizers of this historic convention did not deny the characteristics of their city whose talents they share, and orchestrated yet another singular event. Numerous prominent figures from the United States, Mexico, Taiwan, Japan, China, South Africa, Russia, Singapore, Borneo and Samoa attended the event. The group from the West Coast proved themselves to be very interesting; Steve Soto, Tattoo Tony, Carlos Rocha, Daniel Rocha, and also young and promising new talents like Ryan Jenkins, Alexis Vaatete, and Fonzy attended. They created



CONVENTION



Hori, Hui Tattoo, Taiwan



Chen Brave Tattoo, Taiwan



Moni Marino, Artline, Austria





Steve Soto, Goodfellas Tattoo, Orange County, USA

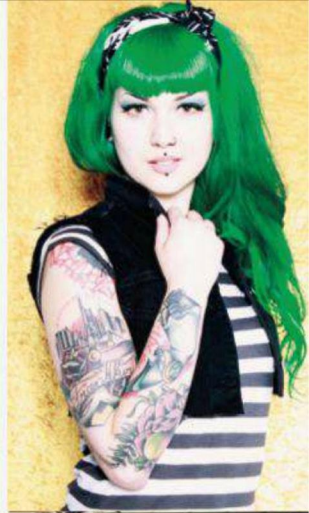
## CONVENTION

marvelous works and won many awards. Not to miss for lovers of the Orient, it was an occasion to admire artists at work from the group of Sensei Horikazuwaka; for the first time in Europe, they demonstrated their skills and abilities and brought them on stage. All the styles were fittingly represented. The German tattoo artists naturally wanted to hold their flag up high over their great work. Among others to distinguish themselves were Andy Engel, Randy Engelhard, Guil Zekri from Reinkarnation of Cologne, and Flo from Vicious Circle, a new and promising talent. The doors of the convention opened Saturday at 3:30 p.m., and the day passed by tranquilly, the opposite of Saturday and Sunday when the location was instead literally assaulted by the public. The performances on stage were many: painting and body piercing, Polynesian dances, jugglers, burlesque shows, rock band concerts, and contests and interviews with the winners. Closing these three days, Miss Anniversary was proclaimed, and the best tattoos from all categories were awarded. An honorable mention went to the breathtaking beauty Sabina Kelley, guest of honor at the convention, and seductive burlesque ballerina Beatrix Von Bourbon, but also to Ski King for their classic repertoire based on the music of Elvis and Johnny Cash. Merchandising booths of every kind weren't missing: from albums to jewels, to fine clothing and gadgets most bizarre. And then again: a wild after party, splendid American cars and Harley Davidsons, and rivers of ink flowing on peoples' skin. Of note is the



Chen, Brave Tattoo, Taiwan

commitment of the organizers who for every ticket sold donated a euro to an association that takes care of gravely ill children. As such, everything went well, and could not have been otherwise. Take a look at the photos to soak up the atmosphere of this exciting German event in anticipation for the next. Long life to the convention in Frankfurt!





Chen, Brave Tattoo, Taiwan



Pint Lynwood, USA



Daniel Rocha, Seven, Las Vegas, USA



Alex, Alex Tattoo Atelier, Ehningen, Germany



Max, From Hell Tattoo, Glognitz, Austria





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# THE KARA-SHISHI

BY MATTI SENJU SEDHOLM HORIMATSU

IREZUMI, THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE TATTOO, BORROWS ITS EXTENSIVE ICONOGRAPHY MAINLY FROM THE EDO PERIOD (1603-1868) OF JAPANESE ART AND CULTURE. THERE ARE OF COURSE MANY EXCEPTIONS AS TO WHAT HAS INFLUENCED IT, BUT WANDERING OUTSIDE THE PARAMETERS OF THE EDO PERIOD IS BEST LEFT ALONE UNTIL A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEX PATTERNS OF ITS HISTORICAL RELATIONSHIPS IS ACHIEVED.



For the student of Irezumi that wants to delve deeper into the vast pantheon of the gods, Buddhas, warriors, and the seemingly never ending parade of imaginary or real animal characters, the Kara-shishi (Chinese lion) is a prime example of how confusing things can become if one doesn't grab every opportunity to research his or her subject matter. The Kara-shishi was originally imported

from Chinese art and is a fanciful rendition of a mythical being. In fact there were never any lions in historical China or Japan. The Kara-shishi is easily recognized by its bulging eyes and curly mane and tail. The hide often shows large round spots in contrast

to its principal skin color. Sometimes the Kara-shishi is blue with a golden mane and tail and sometimes brownish-green. The variations are many and there doesn't seem to be a specific coloring rule. I have seen many different versions, and I believe that when used in





Kara-shishi by Horimatsu



Irezumi, it is best if the color is one that compliments the surrounding flowers and background. One then decides on a contrasting tone for the mane and tail. The Kara-shishi is one of the five auspicious animals alongside the Ryu (dragon), Koi (carp), Tora (tiger) and Ho-o (mythical bird). It is commonly tattooed together with the Botan (peony), and this combination forms a set piece called Kara-shishi Botan. During the Edo period this motif was a highly popular one, especially for Kakejiku (hanging scroll paintings). In China the lion is the king of felines and defender of law. It's a symbol of power, success and strength. The female Kara-shishi loves her offspring, but she also tests their vitality and toughness by throwing them over the edge of a cliff. This is



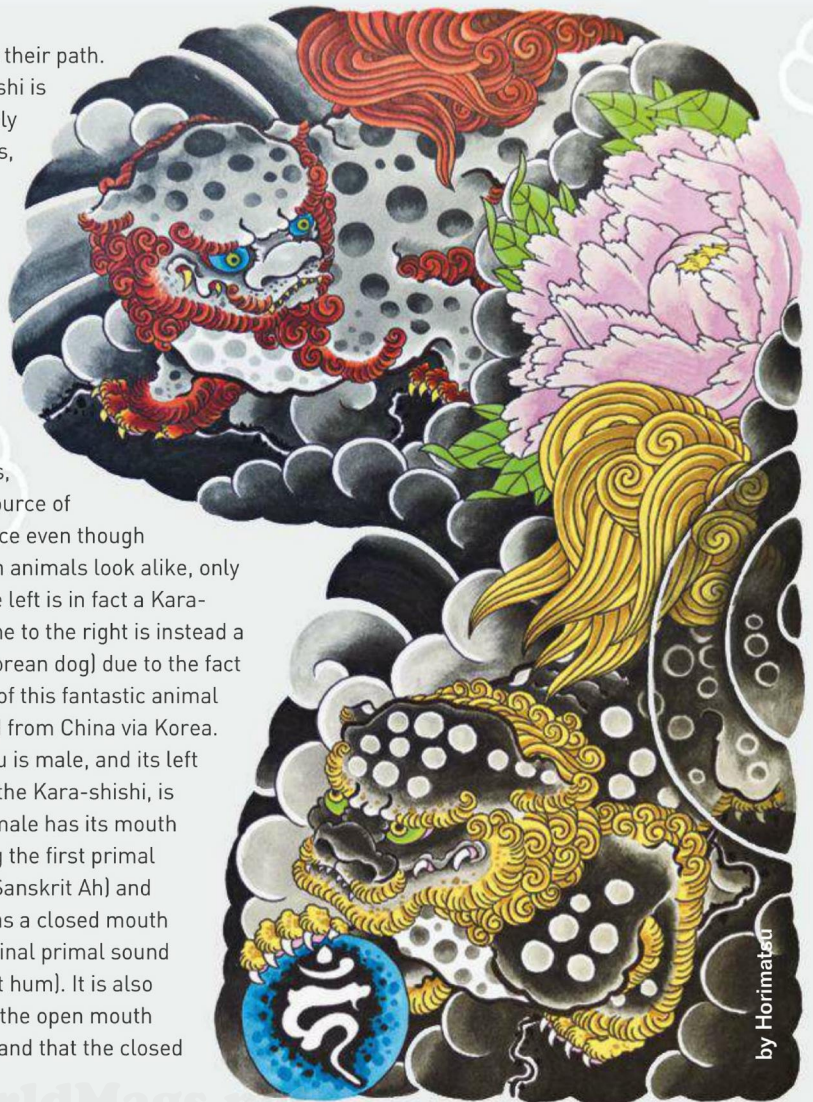


also a common design in Kakejiku. The peony was also imported from China where it was regarded as the king of flowers. It was thought to bring about prosperity, and was commonly applied for medicinal use through various concoctions. Since it also was a common theme in the tattoos of the bandit heroes of the classic Chinese novel Suikoden (Water Margin), it has also come to symbolize a devil-may-care attitude. This novel was successfully illustrated through Japanese woodblock prints between 1827 and 1830 by Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1797-1862). This series of prints became hugely popular with the commoners of Edo at the time, and is one of the foundations for the rapid development of the traditional Japanese tattoo and gain in popularity during that time period.

Some Buddhist deities are associated with the Kara-shishi, most notably Monju Bosatsu. This is the Bodhisattva of the words that make up the Buddhist canon and also the protector and aid of anyone immersed in the effort of serious studying. Monju sits upon a Kara-shishi holding a scroll and brandishing a sacred sword, and just like the lioness, Monju loves and protects the young but at the same time places great

challenges in their path.

The Kara-shishi is also commonly found, in pairs, guarding the entrances of many shrines and Buddhist temples in Japan against evil beings and spirits. This is, however, a source of confusion since even though both guardian animals look alike, only the one to the left is in fact a Kara-shishi. The one to the right is instead a Koma-inu (Korean dog) due to the fact that the idea of this fantastic animal was imported from China via Korea. The Koma-inu is male, and its left counterpart, the Kara-shishi, is female. The male has its mouth open emitting the first primal sound yo (in Sanskrit Ah) and the female has a closed mouth emitting the final primal sound in (in Sanskrit hum). It is also believed that the open mouth wards off evil and that the closed



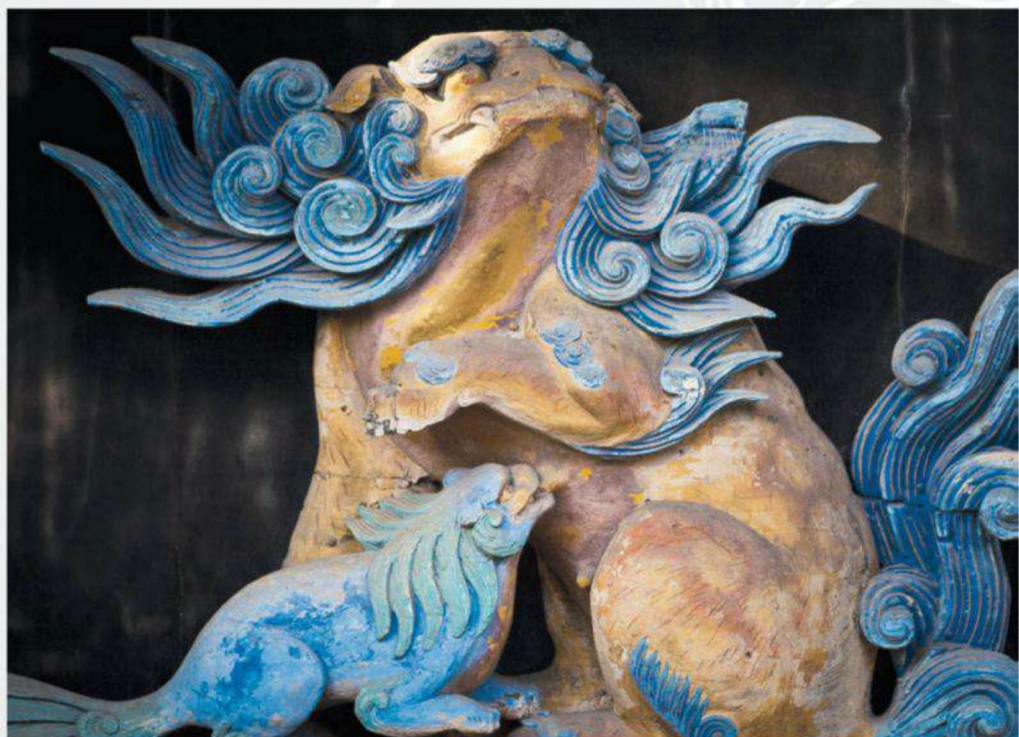




single horn protruding from the top of its wide forehead, but over the centuries, this visual clue separating it from the Kara-shishi has been forgotten or lost. Nowadays only the knowledge of the viewer provides the key to the correct interpretation.

For myself, as a Horishi (traditional Irezumi artist), the Kara-shishi has become a favorite design and fundamental cornerstone in my personal path of Irezumi. I find that its strong protective qualities paired with its playful temperament provide a never ending source of creative joy.

mouth keeps in the good spirits. The right guardian usually has one of its paws on a Tama, a sacred Buddhist jewel that grants wishes. The female to the left has her paw on one of her cubs. One of the reasons for the popularity of the Kara-shishi is that the lioness is a fierce protector of her offspring, and this protective nature promises protectiveness towards human children as well. As a pair, they are also an illustration of the principle of Yang (male) and Yin (female), proposing a dependent mentality coupled with unavoidable opposition. Sitting at opposite sides of the entranceway of Shinto shrines, they serve the same purpose as the pair of Ni-o guardian statues at the gates of Japanese Buddhist temples. The Koma-inu has traditionally had a



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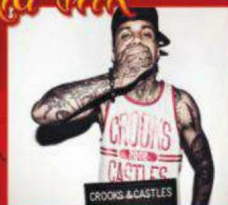
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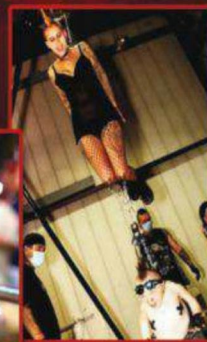
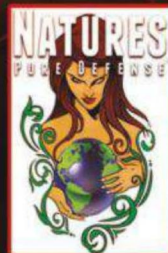


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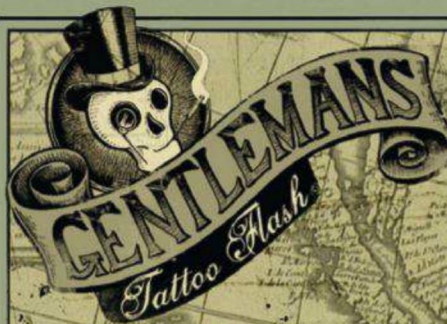
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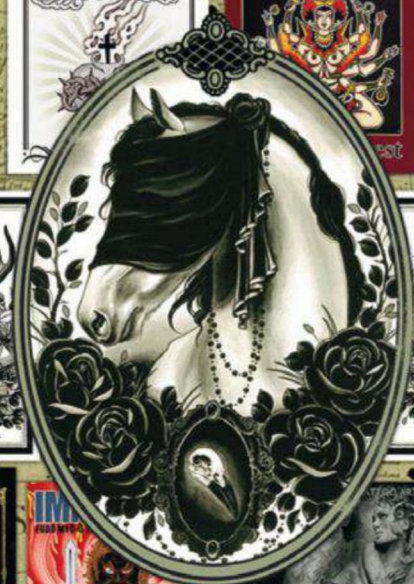
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TATTOO ARTIST



# Jason Butcher

## A New "Death Romantic" Style

TEXT BY STEFANIA PEROSIN

JASON BUTCHER  
C/O IMMORTAL INK  
39-43 BADDOW ROAD  
CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, UK  
WWW.IMMORTAL-INK.CO.UK  
CONTACT@IMMORTAL-INK.CO.UK  
FACEBOOK: IMMORTAL INK JASON BUTCHER'S TATTOO STUDIO  
STUDIO CONTACT NO: +44 124.549.3444

### JASON BUTCHER

JASON BUTCHER EXPRESSES THROUGH HIS TATTOOS A WAY OF LIFE: CONVICTION AND AWARENESS. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF HIS CAREER, HIS STYLE HAS EVOLVED WITH RESPECT TO MAINSTREAM THOUGHT; IN BLACK AND GREY - WHICH GIVES VOICE TO HIS MIND AND VENTS HIS CREATIVITY - HE HAS FOUND THE PERFECT STYLE OF SELF-EXPRESSION. HIS SIGNATURE TALENT USED IN TANDEM WITH HIS EXTRAORDINARY TECHNICAL SKILL, IS HIS ABILITY TO HARMONIZE PROFOUND FEELINGS OF VITALITY AND KINDNESS WITH THOSE OF ANXIETY AND DEATH. IN HIS ONGOING SEARCH TO DISCOVER BEAUTY WHERE NO ONE ELSE IS ABLE TO RECOGNIZE IT, HE HAS CONCEIVED OF AND REFINED A NOVEL ART-STYLE BUILT ON YEARS OF EXPERIENCE.





**H** I JASON!  
COULD  
YOU TELL  
US ABOUT  
YOUR  
BACK-  
GROUND  
AND YOUR  
ART EDU-  
CATION SO

WE CAN UNDERSTAND BETTER YOUR CREATIONS AND DISCOVER A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOU?

To be honest with you I didn't even finish high school. My brother died in my last year of school and I just lost interest. My brother's death made me re-think a lot of things in life, and my education didn't seem as important anymore. I was always interested in art, and in fact it may seem strange, but since I was maybe 5 years old, I think I considered myself

to be an artist. I always knew that I would somehow make a living from art. I enjoy many mediums in art but tattooing has always been my favorite, and even after 17 years of tattooing, I'm absolutely in love with it.

NOW FOR A QUESTION ON STYLE: YOUR TATTOOS ARE REALISTIC, BUT THEY REVEAL AN ALMOST SECRET, HIDDEN DIMENSION OF THE WORLD AROUND US. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS STATEMENT?

I love that you say that because that's exactly what I'm aiming for. I want my work to look super-realistic, but I mostly want to express emotion. I want it to look dark and a bit scary but also beautiful. I'm really interested in contrasts. I call the style I have created "death romantic," and it feels almost too revealing to say it, but all the work in this style is really about my

feelings about life and death, and my own acceptance of mortality, and even my acceptance of life, and all the shitty things that go on in life.

YOUR BLACK AND GREY PORTRAITS RARELY LEAVE ROOM FOR COLOR, ONLY A FEW DETAILS AND PERHAPS A TOUCH OF WHITE TO CREATE CONTRAST AND EMPHASIZE DETAILS OF LIGHT. HAS THIS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE?

I have always loved portraiture, and for some reason I was always attracted to pencil drawings, and so when I started tattooing, black and grey seemed only natural. The only problem was that only a few people were doing black and grey tattoos at that time, and most of them were American, and I had only seen them in magazines, so it took a while to try and figure out how to do it. Since I figured it out, it has always felt



## TATTOO ARTIST



so natural to see things in terms of light and dark instead of different colors. I also feel that black and grey let me get the kind of emotion that I'm going for in my work better than color. I tried to master black and grey because it's the best way for me to express myself honestly with my art.

**SOME OF YOUR CREATIONS SEEM LIKE THEY'RE OUT OF A HORROR MOVIE AND OTHERS REVEAL A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF ART HISTORY, ESPECIALLY DALI'S SURREALIST PAINTINGS. DO YOU LIKE THE CINEMA? WHO ARE YOUR FAVORITE ARTISTS?**

I've always been into horror movies since I was young, but to be honest all of my tastes have mellowed a bit with age, and obviously my art reflects that. I think there is less in-your-face horror in my art now days, and my work is far more melancholy. There is always a dark edge to my work because I want to keep a feeling of restlessness, but I want to express the beauty in this darkness. I love many artists' work, but to be honest I don't really pay attention to anyone else's work







because I don't want to end up being too inspired by it. My aim is to express myself honestly and create something new from that. That said I do like Dali a lot, and there is a part of my work that is inspired by surrealism. I'm a fan of any artist who tries to create and make something new. It may be difficult or impossible to do this but I really admire people who try.

ANOTHER INTERESTING ASPECT OF YOUR TATTOOS IS THE MOVEMENT THAT YOU MANAGE TO ACHIEVE IN THE COMPOSITION, ESPECIALLY IN ELEMENTS SUCH AS WOMEN'S FLOWING HAIR OR CERTAIN COMPLEX WAVY BACKGROUNDS. IT SEEMS AS THOUGH YOUR CHARACTERS ARE FLOATING IN WATER OR HAVE BEEN STRUCK BY SUDDEN GUSTS OF WIND. DO YOU THINK THIS IS AN IMPORTANT

#### TACTIC IN THE DEFINITION OF YOUR TATTOOS?

This is definitely an important tactic in expressing myself. I find it hard to describe in words because almost everything I create comes from what feels right and the thought process behind it has almost nothing to do with words. I do like things to flow well, and I don't want anyone to be distracted by something looking awkward or not flowing correctly. I like to make things disappear into the background; I think some of these tactics add a soft or feminine aspect to contrast some of the darker or masculine aspects. These are the things that make my work feel more sensitive.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE A REAL LIKING FOR SKULLS: IT'S A SUBJECT THAT YOU REINTERPRET IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS, EVEN IN YOUR

**I LOVE SKULLS. THEY REPRESENT DEATH AND BEAUTY. THEY ARE FASCINATING AND PERFECT SCULPTURES. I'M TRYING TO BE CREATIVE ABOUT HOW I USE SKELETONS.**

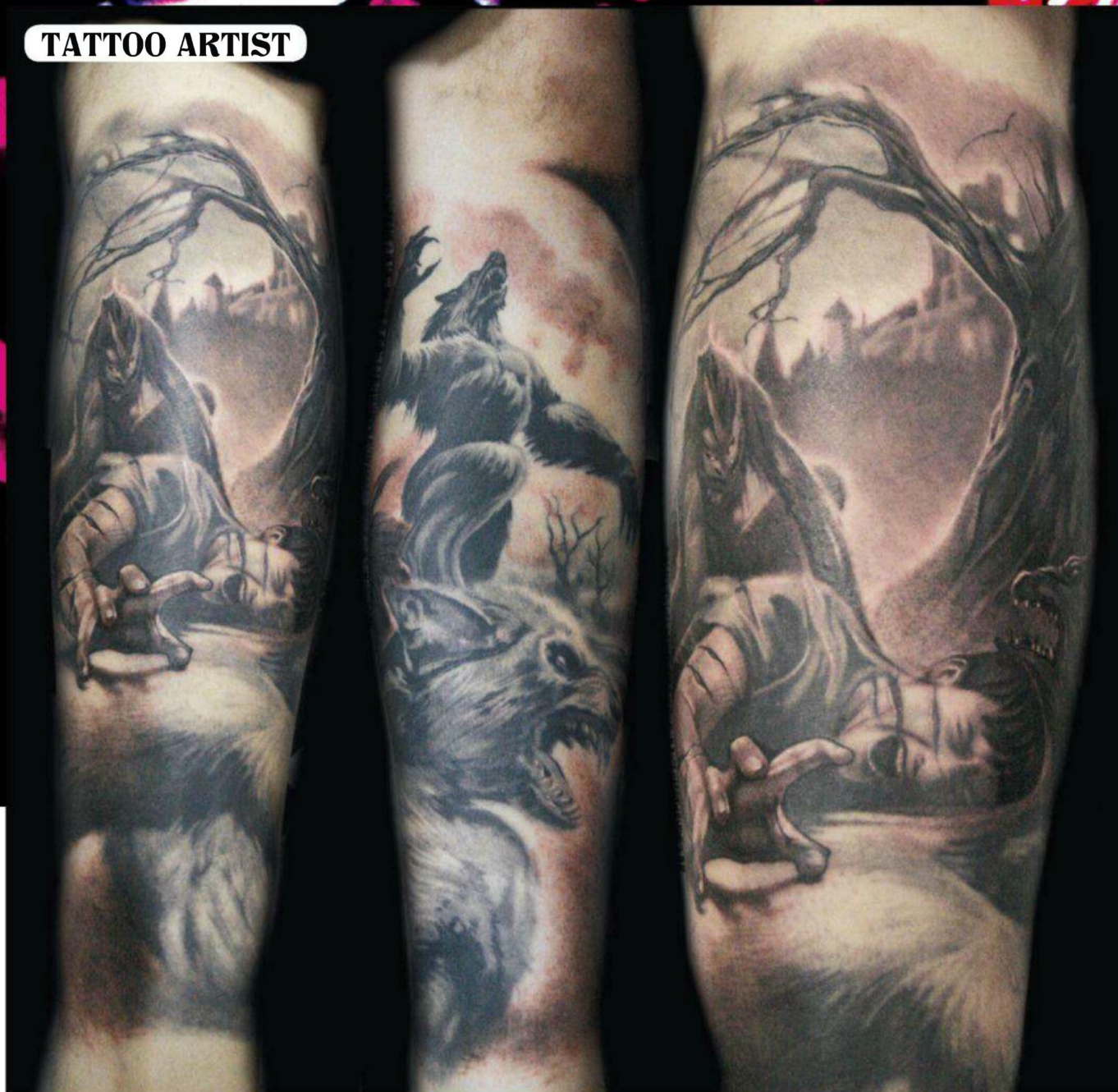
#### PAINTINGS. HOW COME?

I love skulls. They represent death and beauty. They are fascinating and perfect sculptures. I own quite a few skulls including a full skeleton and a fetus skull. I'm trying to be creative about how I use skeletons in my work. I don't want to get bored of them, and I don't want anyone else to get bored through too much repetition.

# Jason Butcher



## TATTOO ARTIST



WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THE BIOMECHANICAL TATTOOS THAT APPEAR HERE AND THERE IN YOUR WORK? DOES THIS STYLE PLEASE YOU?

I was briefly interested in this style but not so much anymore. I'm interested in developing my own style more and more, so I will use anything that I need to in order to express it, so maybe I will still occasionally use biomechanics in the future.

GREAT BRITAIN IS GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TRADITIONAL.

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ATTRACTED TO OR CURIOUS ABOUT THIS STYLE?

I didn't used to be so interested in this style, but I do really appreciate it now. It's not the way I want to express myself, but I love the way some people use this style. I think it's important to keep the traditional styles alive, and it's a very bold and expressive style, but I'm really interested in trying to do things that have never been done before, at least in tattooing, if such a thing is possible.

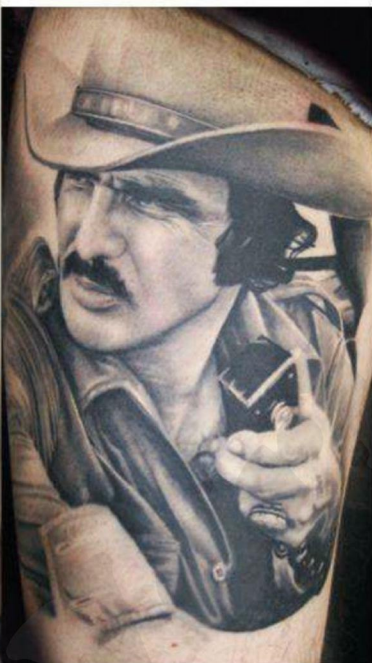
LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR STUDIO,

IMMORTAL INK. WHO WORKS WITH YOU, AND WHAT IS THE SET UP LIKE?

I have owned Immortal Ink for 12 years and we have 7 artists working there. My girlfriend Lianne Moule who is doing some amazing tattoos and painting, Ray Johnson who does Japanese style work, Aron Szabo who does black and grey realism, Joe Carpenter who does color realism, Marc Wagstaff who does traditional tattoos, Biko who does black and grey, and Liannes cousin Iona who is our apprentice and definitely one to watch out for.

# Jason Butcher







## TATTOO ARTIST



**THERE IS ALWAYS A DARK EDGE TO MY WORK BECAUSE I WANT TO KEEP A FEELING OF RESTLESSNESS, BUT I WANT TO EXPRESS THE BEAUTY IN THIS DARKNESS.**

**WHAT DO YOUR CLIENTS ASK FOR MOSTLY WHEN THEY COME INTO THE STUDIO?**

My clients are awesome and they nearly always let me have free reign to do what I want. I'm really trying to

push the boundaries, and I have great customers who are willing to let me try. They are happy as long as they get an awesome tattoo.

I feel a great responsibility to give everyone a great tattoo and a great experience.

They let me do what I want and they wait patiently for an appointment so I feel I have to make it worth their time and money.

**WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME WHEN YOU'RE NOT AT WORK?**

I tattoo, paint, draw and go to the gym, and that's about all I have time for. Also there is a fair amount of travel, but these are the things I love to do with my time.

**WILL YOU BE TAKING PART IN ANY CONVENTIONS OR GUEST SPOTS THIS YEAR?**

I'm doing quite a few conventions this year. I'm trying to do a few less than I used to and just concentrate on the ones I really like and being in the studio more. I have some big tattoo projects to work on in the studio.

# Jason Butcher







# Ink Lady



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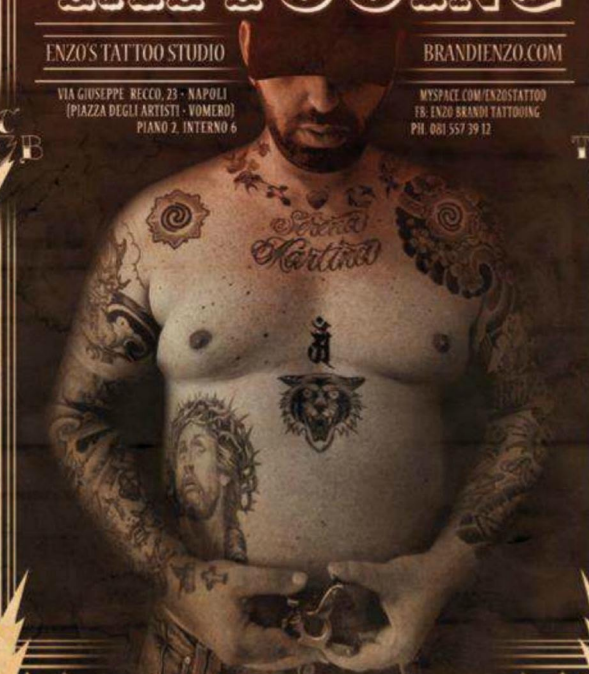
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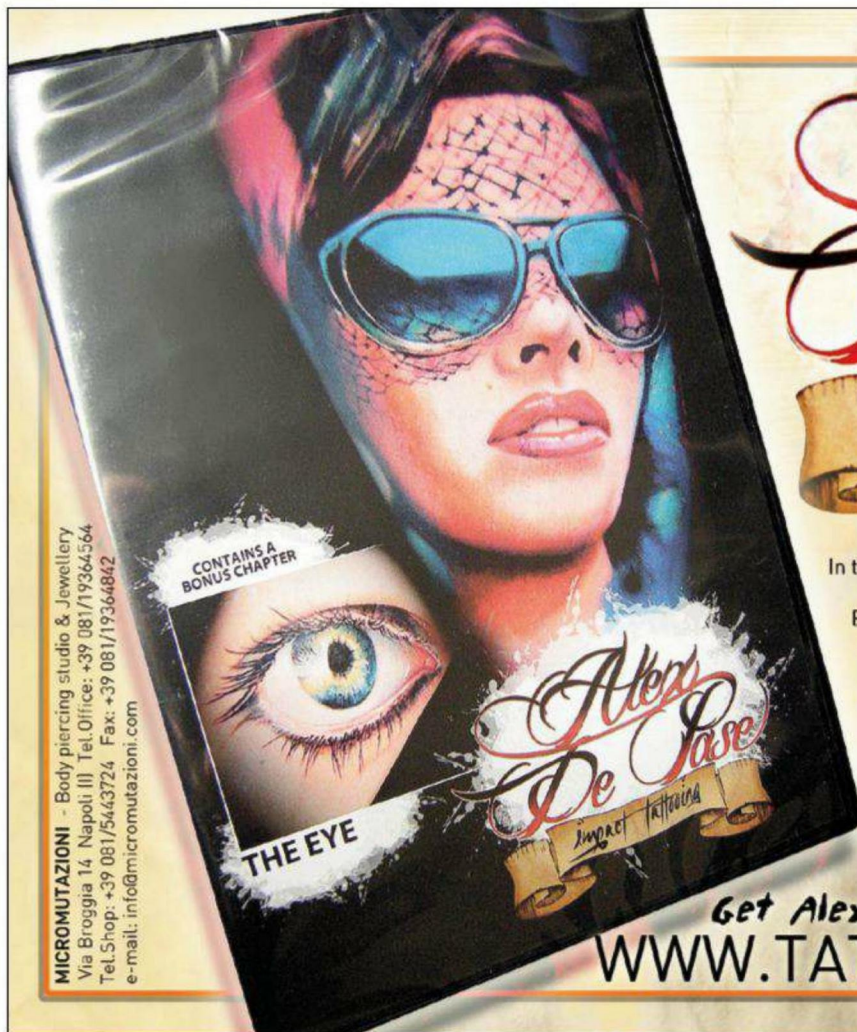
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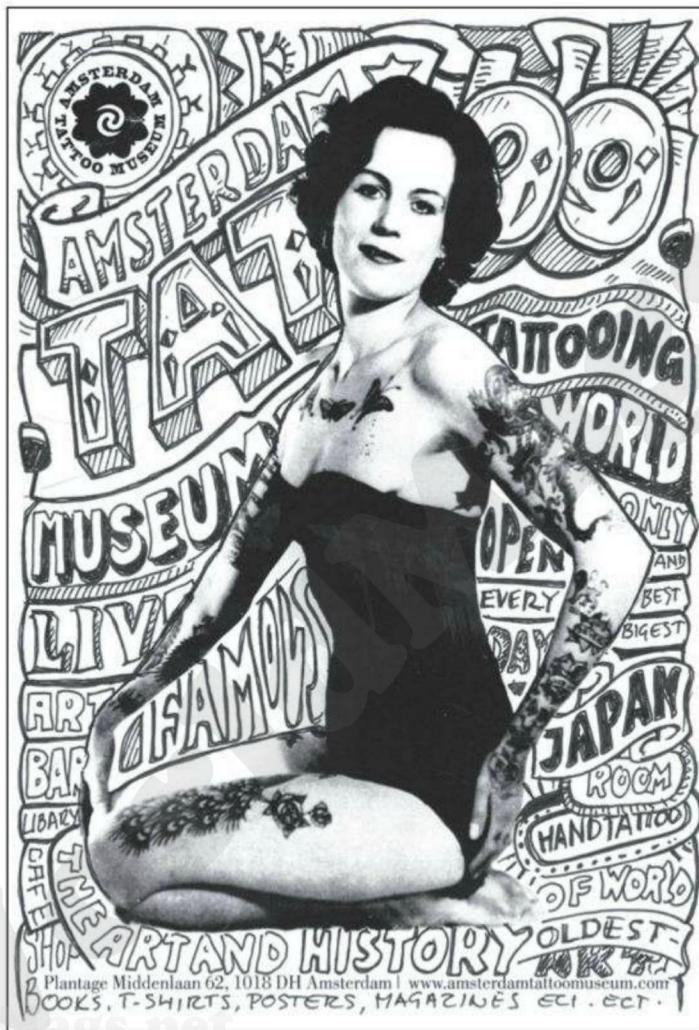
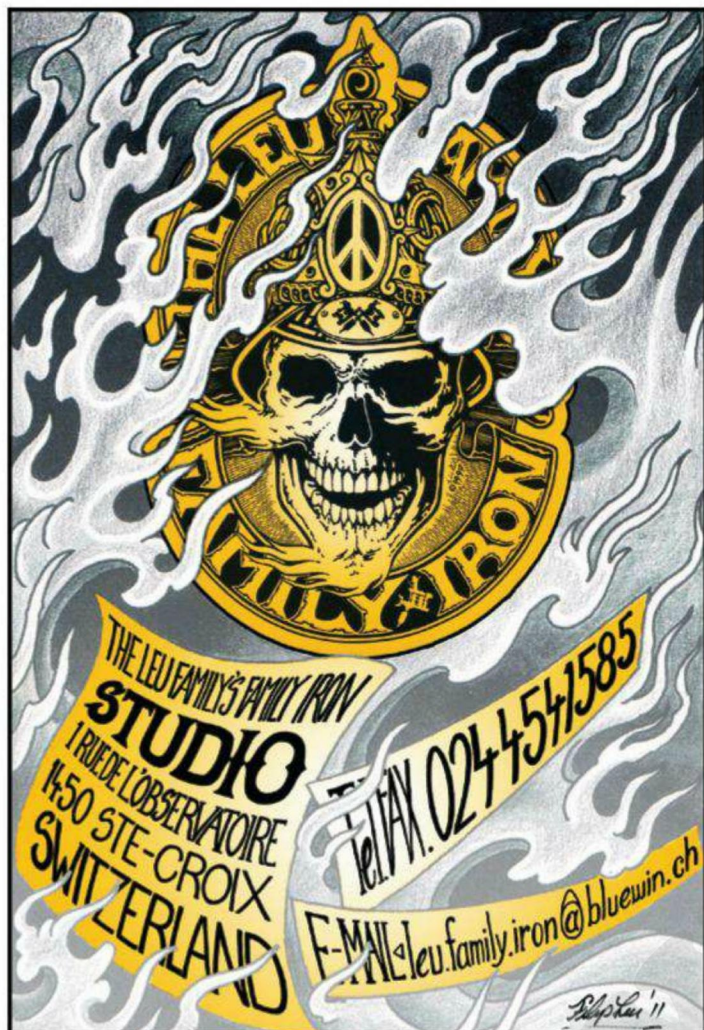
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# XIII INTERNATIONAL **HAMBURG** TATTOO CONVENTION





CONVENTION

APRIL  
7th-9th  
2012

PHOTOS BY MARCUS EWERS



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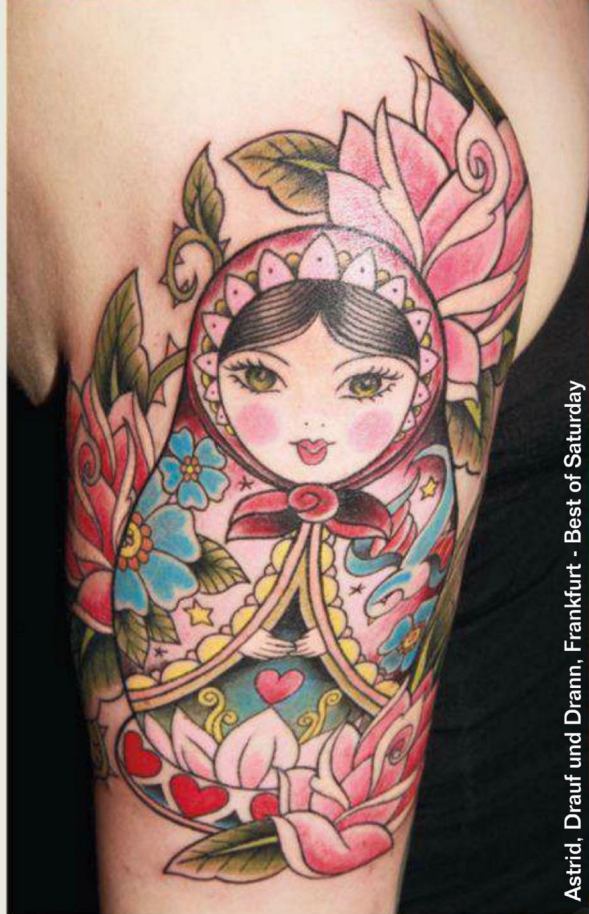




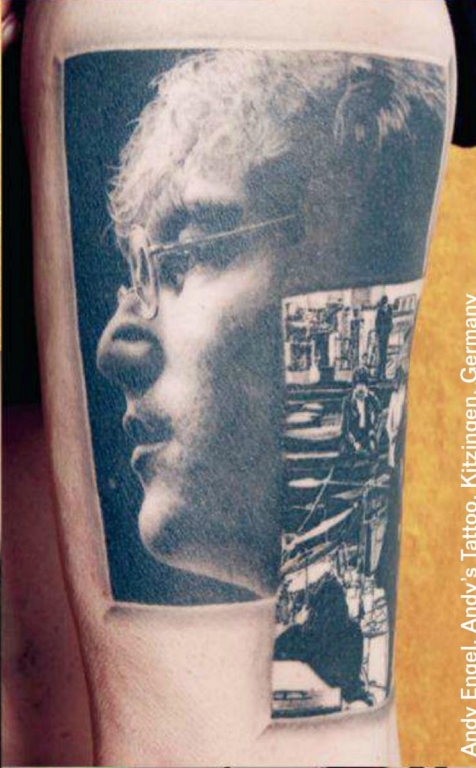
Lars Uwe, Loxodrom, Berlin, Germany



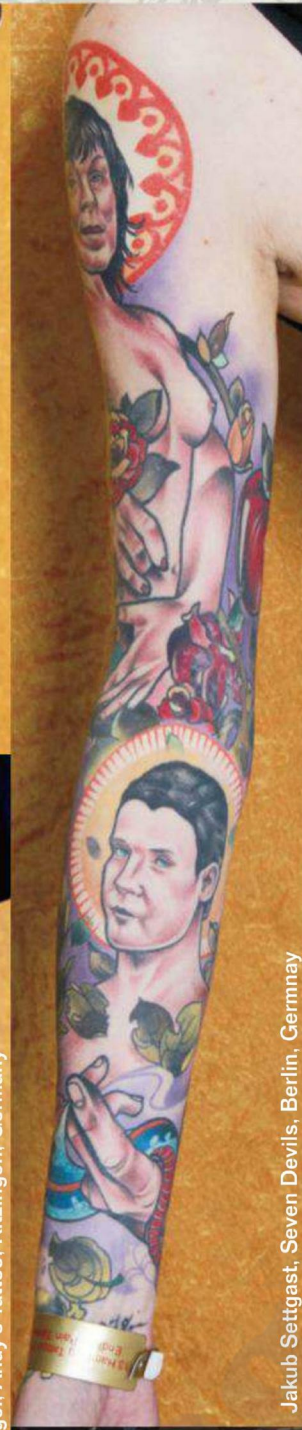
Alex Mansuy, Berlin, Germany



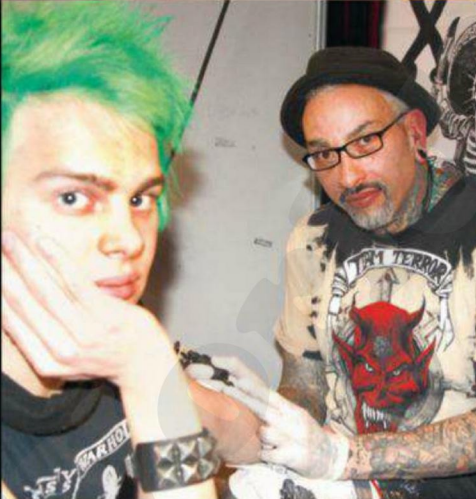
Astrid, Drauf und Drann, Frankfurt - Best of Saturday



Andy Engel, Andy's Tattoo, Kitzingen, Germany



Jakub Settgast, Seven Devils, Berlin, Germany





## PAINTINGS

# "KOKORO"

## THE ART OF HORIYOSHI III AT SOMERSET HOUSE IN LONDON

BY MIKI VIALETTA

CONNOTING DEPTH AND FEELING, KOKORO WHICH IN JAPANESE MEANS "HEART," IS THE TITLE OF THE APTLY NAMED LONDON ART EXHIBITION WHICH OPENED THE 21ST OF MARCH IN HONOR AND DISPLAY OF THE PAINTINGS OF HORIYOSHI III, ONE OF THE GREATEST LIVING MASTERS OF TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CULTURE AND CONNOISSEUR OF THE OCCIDENTAL WORLD. HIS ART AND TRADITIONAL WORK ON CANVAS HAVE INSPIRED HUNDREDS OF TATTOO ARTISTS THE WORLD OVER, AND HE REPRESENTS TO THIS VERY DAY THE FIGURATIVE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE TRADITION OF IREZUMI AND THE FUTURE OF TATTOOING. THE KOKORO EXHIBITION IS THE FIRST ONE IN EUROPE DEDICATED TO HIM. IN THESE FEW PAGES, WE WILL SHOW YOU ONLY SOME OF THE MARVELOUS WORKS ON EXHIBITION WITH THE HOPE OF BEING ABLE TO COMMUNICATE THE POETRY THAT INSPIRES THE ARTWORK OF THIS GREAT JAPANESE MASTER.

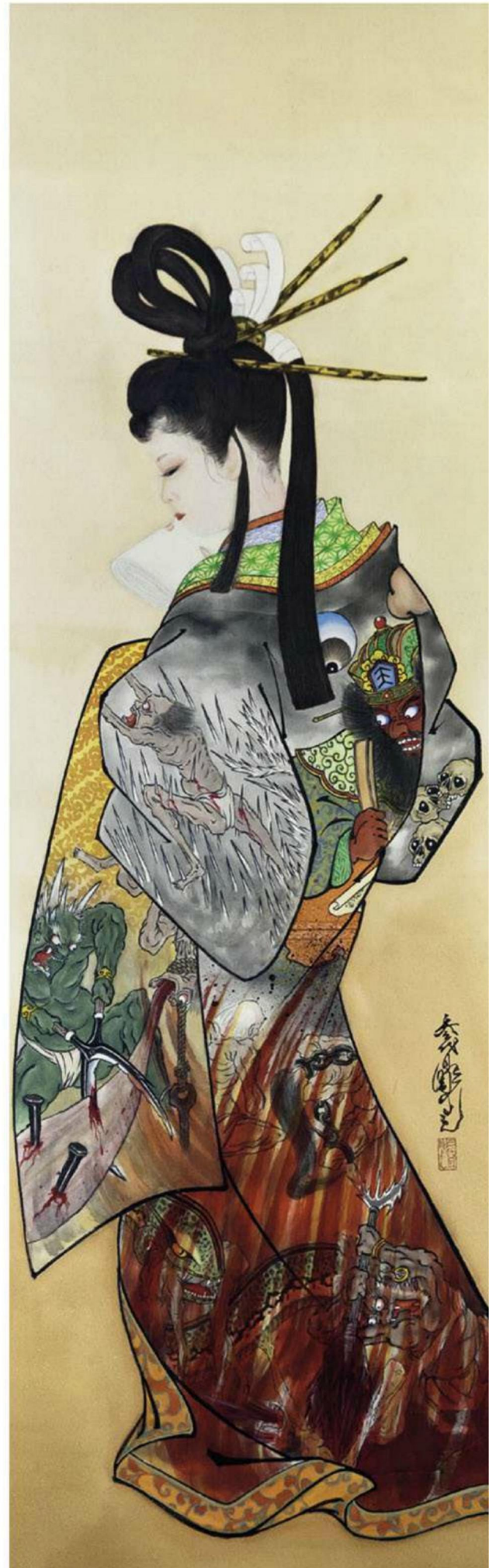
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I was invited by my friends Alex Horikitsune Reinke from Kofuu-Senju Publications and Claudia de Sabe to the opening ceremony of this beautiful exhibition organized and supported by them and the prestigious London Gallery Somerset house.

This is the first time ever that works of Horiyoshi have been brought to Europe for exhibition. And certainly this first time could not have been conceived in a more prestigious location than the marvelous rooms of the former civic residence

of Queen Elizabeth. The silk paintings of Horiyoshi III span a wide range of traditional Japanese designs, whose subjects are drawn from the mystical world of folk tales. The silk scrolls are very difficult to produce, and the technique requires great experience, so much in fact, that Horiyoshi III recounts being helped many times in their production by Mr. Ozuma Kaname, an expert screen printer.

Horiyoshi III unfortunately







was not present at the opening of the exhibition. It's been for some time that he hasn't felt like taking long trips, but in his place was Alex Reinke his senior apprentice.

On my way in, just past the threshold of the entrance of the Somerset House, I remained fixed on the beauty of this elegant location used to host events such as the annual London Fashion Week and various exhibitions of famous international artists

All around me were the legendary tattoo artist themselves: Hanky Panky, Lal Hard and George One, just to name a few, who were mixed in with a crowd of eclectics, curious onlookers, tattoo and art enthusiasts in general. During this beautiful evening I remained surprised to see the curator of the Victorian and Albert Museum side by side with a Zen Buddhist monk commenting on the works on display together with around a hundred tattooed people from the most famous tattoo parlors in London.

The exhibition was free and staged in the



## PAINTINGS

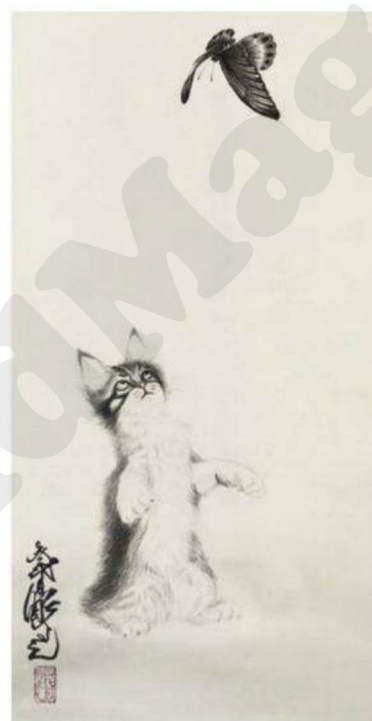
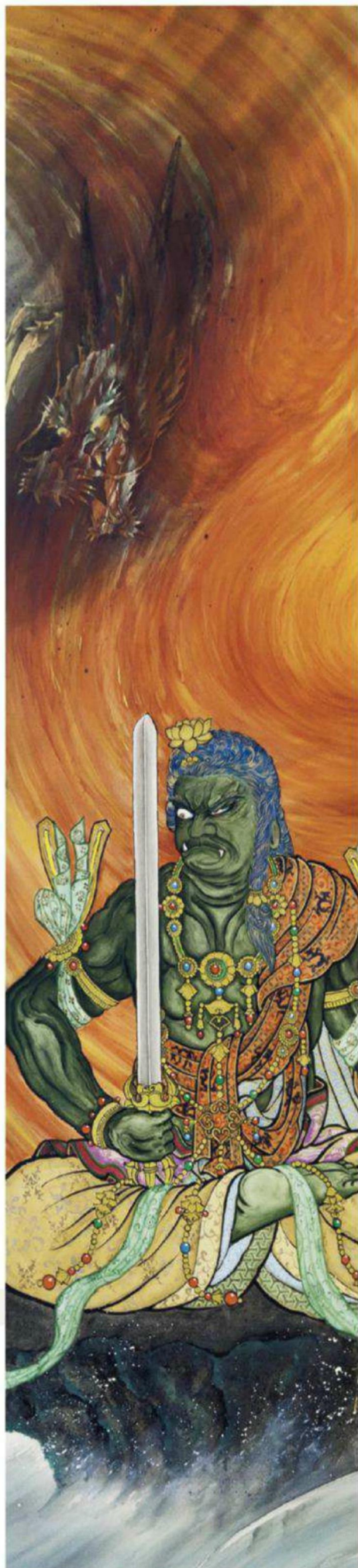


rooms in the back of the inner courtyard. Some of the silk scrolls are on sale. In the gallery bookshop small original works of art by Horiyoshi III and limited editions prints of photographs by Matti Senju Sedholm Horimatsu dedicated to Alex Kofuu

Reinke Horikitsuneare were on sale.

*The exhibition was curated by Claudia 'Sabe' De Rossi with the preceious help of Kofuu-Senju Publications and Stephen Doherty.*







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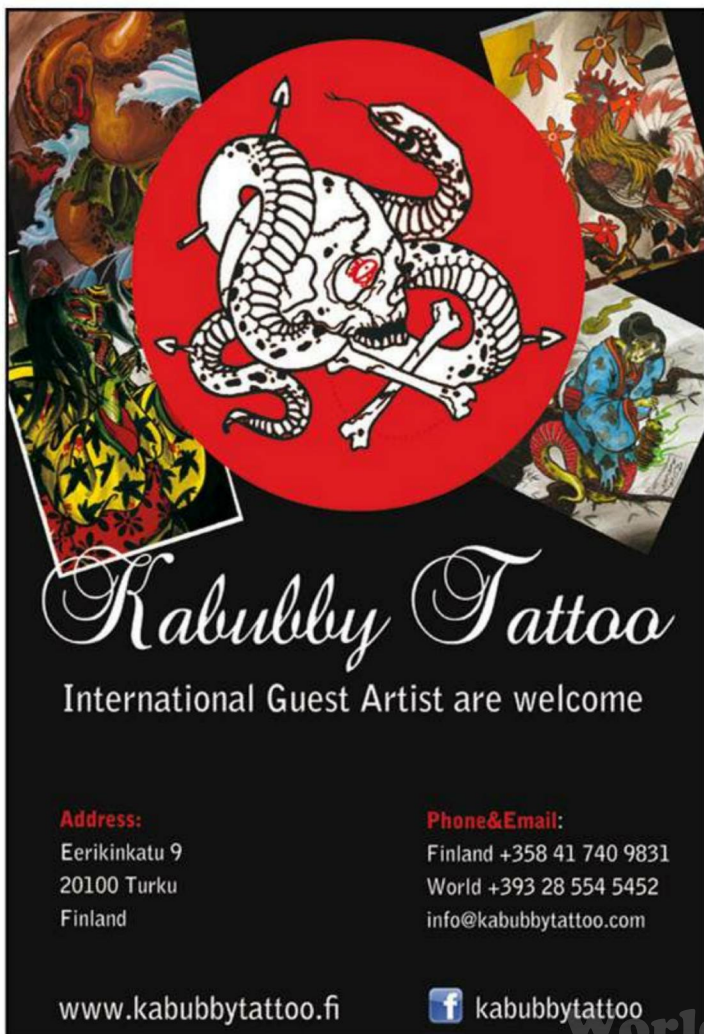
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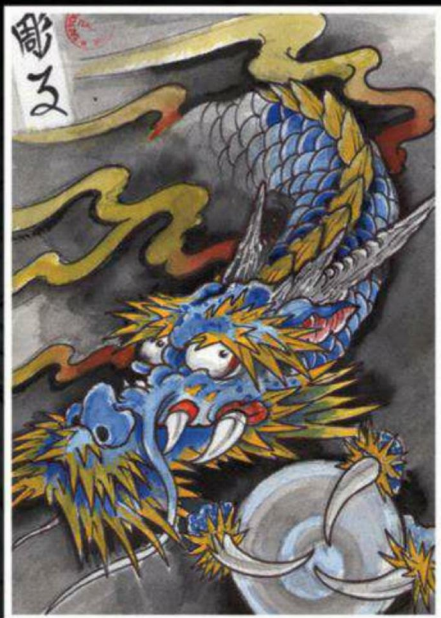
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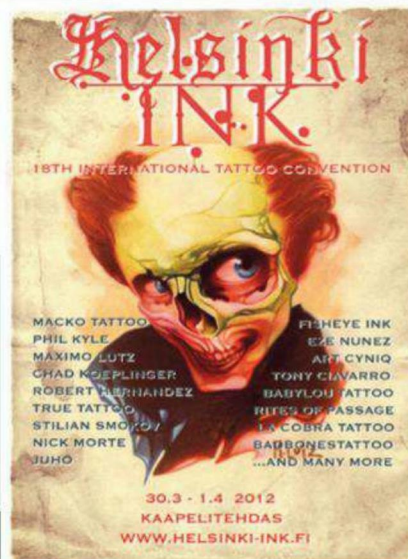
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## ROCKS again!

WHAT IS THERE TO SAY! WHEN WE FLEW OUT OF GENEVA AIRPORT IT WAS 18 °C. WHEN WE ARRIVED IN HELSINKI, THE BAR OF MERCURY HAD DROPPED TO ZERO. FOR FINISH THESE ARE SPRING TEMPERATURES! IN ANY CASE, THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> HELSINKI INK FESTIVAL, HELD FROM MARCH 30 TO APRIL 1, 2012 RATHER WARMED US! HUNDREDS OF VISITORS QUEUED TO GET TATTOOED BY THE FORTY ARTISTS PRESENT THIS YEAR.



Dino Baby Tattoo, Denmark



Alex Ducks Tattoo, Finland



Veera Moberg, Finland



Nick Morte, Norway



Jimmy Lee, Sweden



Antonio Todisco, Italy

The artists from the Nordic countries were the most popular, with the Swedish Jimmy Lajnen awarded the Sunday Best, the Finish Veera

Morbecq Best of Color, the Danish David Engelmann the Dino Baby Tattoo award for his strongly new-school characteristics, and the Norwegian Nick Morte for his extremely impressive black and grey portraits.

Among the other tattoo artists present, Spanish Jee Sayalero was awarded the prize for the best back piece "worn" by Ms. Laeti. A real ripping tattoo allowed French Keuns from Utopia Tattoo to win the prize for the Best of Japanese despite his absence from the event! The presence of Poison was not to miss in the stand of French Kiss Ink whose pin-ups attracted the Finish in throngs, and Van's from Tattoo Passion who tattooed small works of art during the entire event without rest.

The organizers this year aimed for sobriety and elegance in setting the





Jarno Tatuuta, Finland

Jimmy Lajnen, Sweden

Eze Nunez, Argentina

festival: no sword eaters or burlesque strip-tease! The Japanese Ballerina SANAXxx was the center of attention for her enchanting and magical performances on the Legend of Hannya, and the roller-girls never failed to reinvigorate the artists with drinks more or less rich in calories.

The event in Helsinki is one of its kind, held in a red brick building that recalls the great

Soviet Epoch, and it's been left to everyone. The artists work in spaces sufficiently large enough to be comfortable, and one can move easily from room to room.

There is time for conversation and exchange of ideas. Beer starting from the celebrated national pride Lapin Kulta is naturally abundant.

In short, it was a highly successful event this year round: we just have

to invite artists and tattooed all to participate in the next edition of 2013, in anticipation of celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the event in 2014!

*dat's all folks*





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Andre Hoppe, Life Time Tattoo, Duisburg, Germany



Arianna Settembrino, Skinwear Tattoo, Rimini, Italy



Cang Long, Cang Long Tattoo, Shanghai, China



Eiland Hogan, Forever Tattoo, Sacramento, USA



Bunshin Horitoshi, Bunshin Horitoshi Tattoo, Tokyo, Japan





Chad Chase, Venom Ink, Sanford, USA



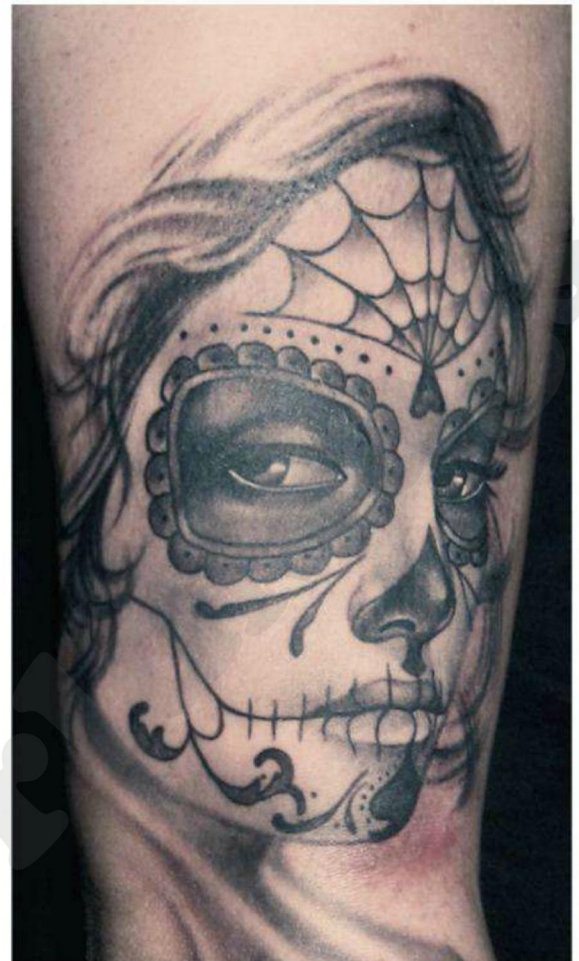
Benjamin Laukis, Coolum Tattoo, Coolum Beach, Australia



Boris, Boris Tattoo, Zalaegerszeg, Hungary



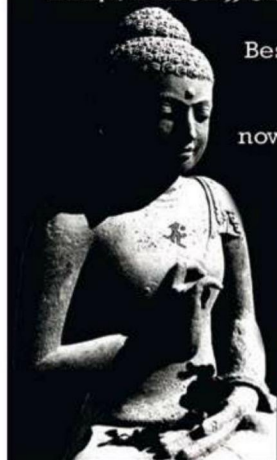
Aaron Della Vedova, Guru Tattoo, San Diego, USA



Carlos Rojas, Black Anchor Collective, Hesperia, USA



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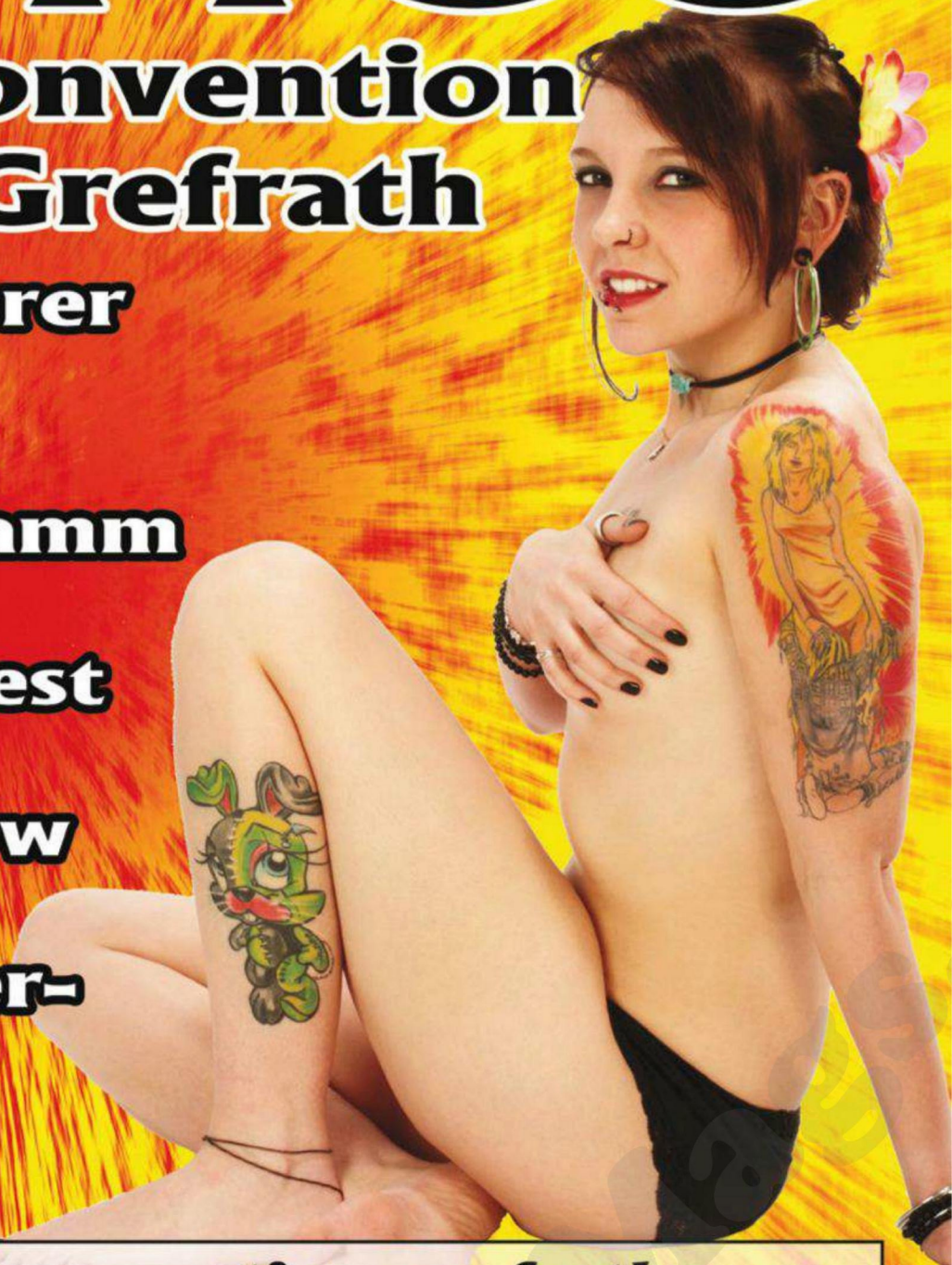
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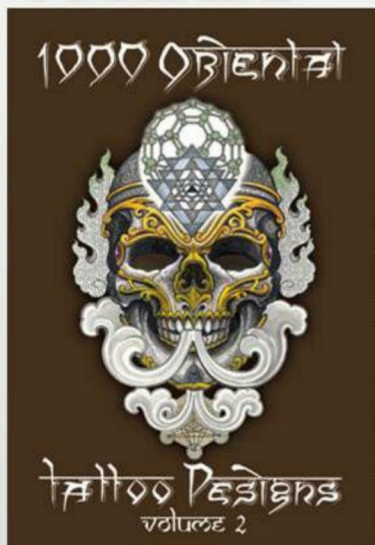


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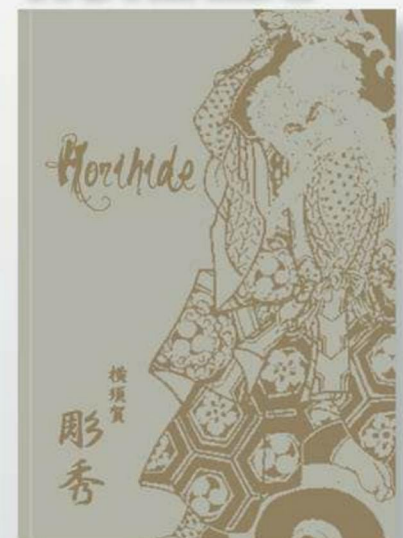
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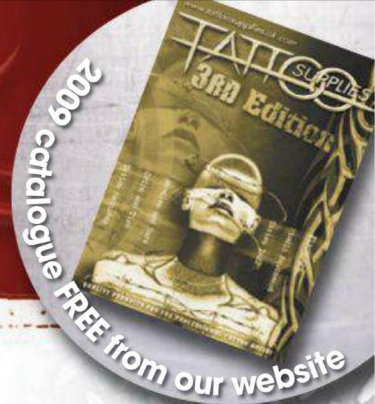
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